5
BAKEMONOGATARI
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

Suruga Monkey

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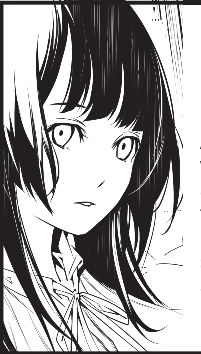
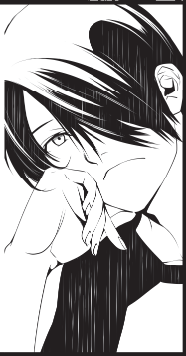
MAIN CHARACTERS



Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl whose weight was once stolen by a "crab." Though they were in different athletic clubs, she and Suruga had a junior-senior relationship in middle school.



Koyomi Araragi

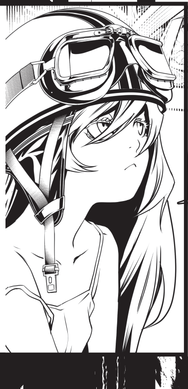
A boy who was attacked by a vampire. Currently dating Hitagi. He's suddenly being followed by Suruga for some reason.

Suruga Kanbaru

The star and captain of the basketball team, as well as the biggest celebrity on campus. Now recuperating from an "injury."

Mèmè Oshino

An expert on aberrations who Koyomi relies on whenever he has a problem. A shady adult who makes the ruins of a former cram school his home.



Shinobu Oshino

The shadow of the vampire who once attacked Koyomi. Her existence is bound by her name, which was given to her by Oshino.

THE STORY SO FAR

Enter Suruga Kanbaru, the biggest celebrity on campus. Though Koyomi Araragi had seen her as an entirely different type of person who lived in a different world from his own, it turns out that she has been stalking him for some reason. While trying to figure out why he is being stalked by Suruga, Koyomi is suddenly attacked by a mysterious figure in a raincoat that he takes to be an aberration. Koyomi then draws a connection between these incidents and ends up visiting Suruga's home to uncover the truth...

Chapter 3

Suruga Monkey

BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

Thanks for coming all this way, Araragi.
Make yourself at home.
...How do you expect me to do that in this huge house?
Okay.
This is my room.

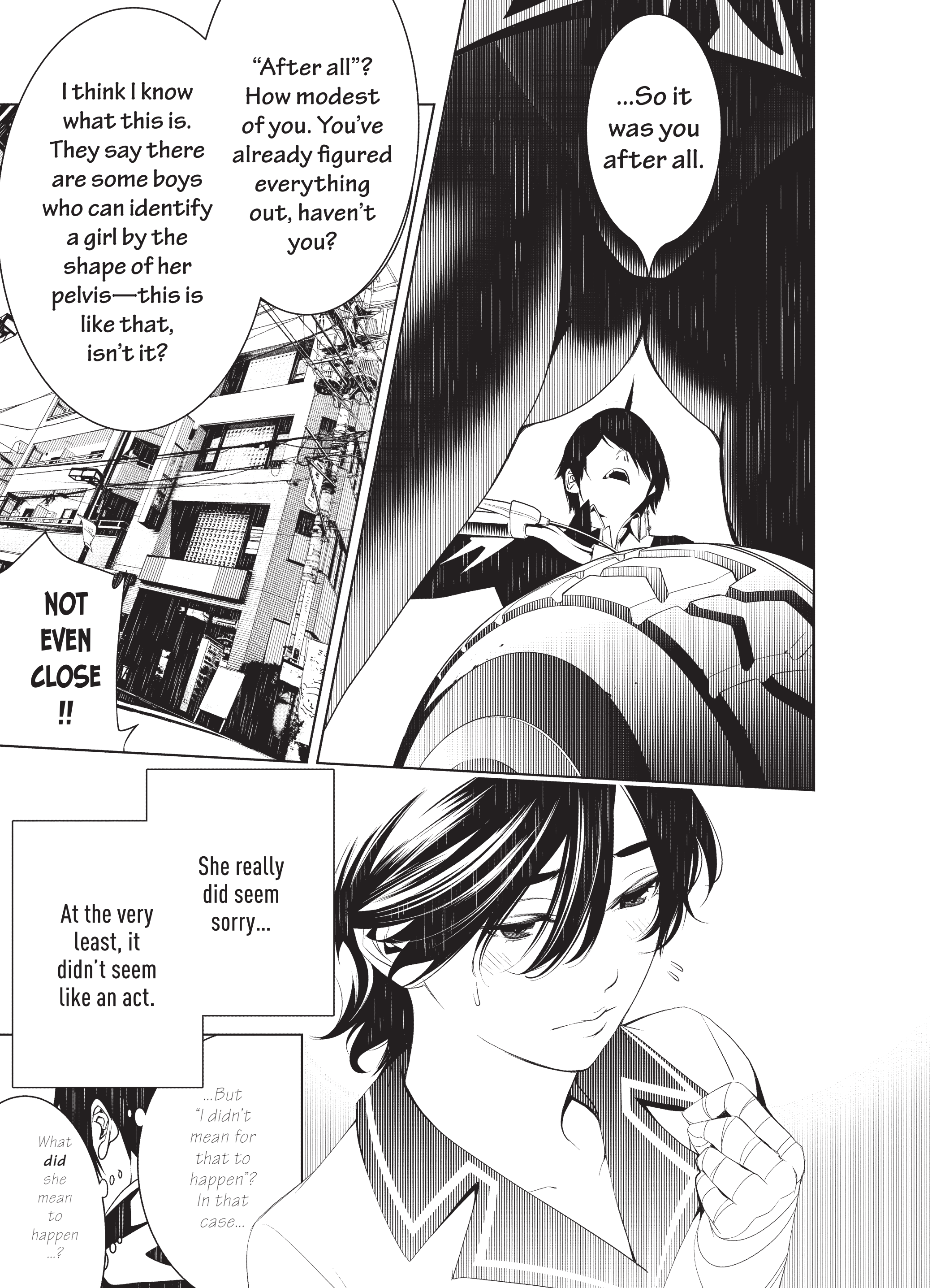
Umm, let's see...
THOOMP
BAKE
The bottle of tea I bought yesterday should be around here...
MONO
GATARI
...Kan-baru.
I know this isn't the time for it, but...
Hear me out— I have a request for you.
Hm?

SURE THING! WHATEVER YOU WANT!! I WOULD NEVER TURN DOWN A REQUEST FROM YOU!!
I'M MOVED BY YOUR HESITATION TO ENTER THE ROOM OF A GIRL YOU DON'T KNOW WELL, BUT WE CERTAINLY DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR A DISPLAY OF YOUR IMPRESSIVELY SENSITIVE NATURE!!
I just want an hour... No, thirty minutes... Just give me some time to clean this room...
I'll need a bunch of big garbage bags, too.
...
Oh ...
I see... No need to be so consid-erate.
Though I do apologize for the mess.
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE! AND THAT'S THE KIND OF LINE YOU SAY AS A WAY TO BE MODEST WHEN YOU LET SOMEONE INTO A REASONABLY TIDY ROOM!

Three hours earlier.
Lunch break.
Hey, Kanbaru... do you have a second?
There's something I need to talk to you about.
What ...? A third-year?
Huh? Why's he here? What?
Hello there, my senior Araragi.
THOK
THOK
THOK
Kanbaru simply said...
"In that case, please come home with me after school."

Okay, I'll show you the way.
SQUEE-KLIK SQUEE-KLIK SQUEE-KLIK
VWOOSH
If all we were going to do was talk...we could have done it anywhere.
In the hallway, an empty classroom, the athletic grounds, or even a fast food restaurant.
SHE'S SO FAST ...
But it seemed that there was some rationale for this.
Kanbaru had "reasons" for wanting to talk to me in her home.

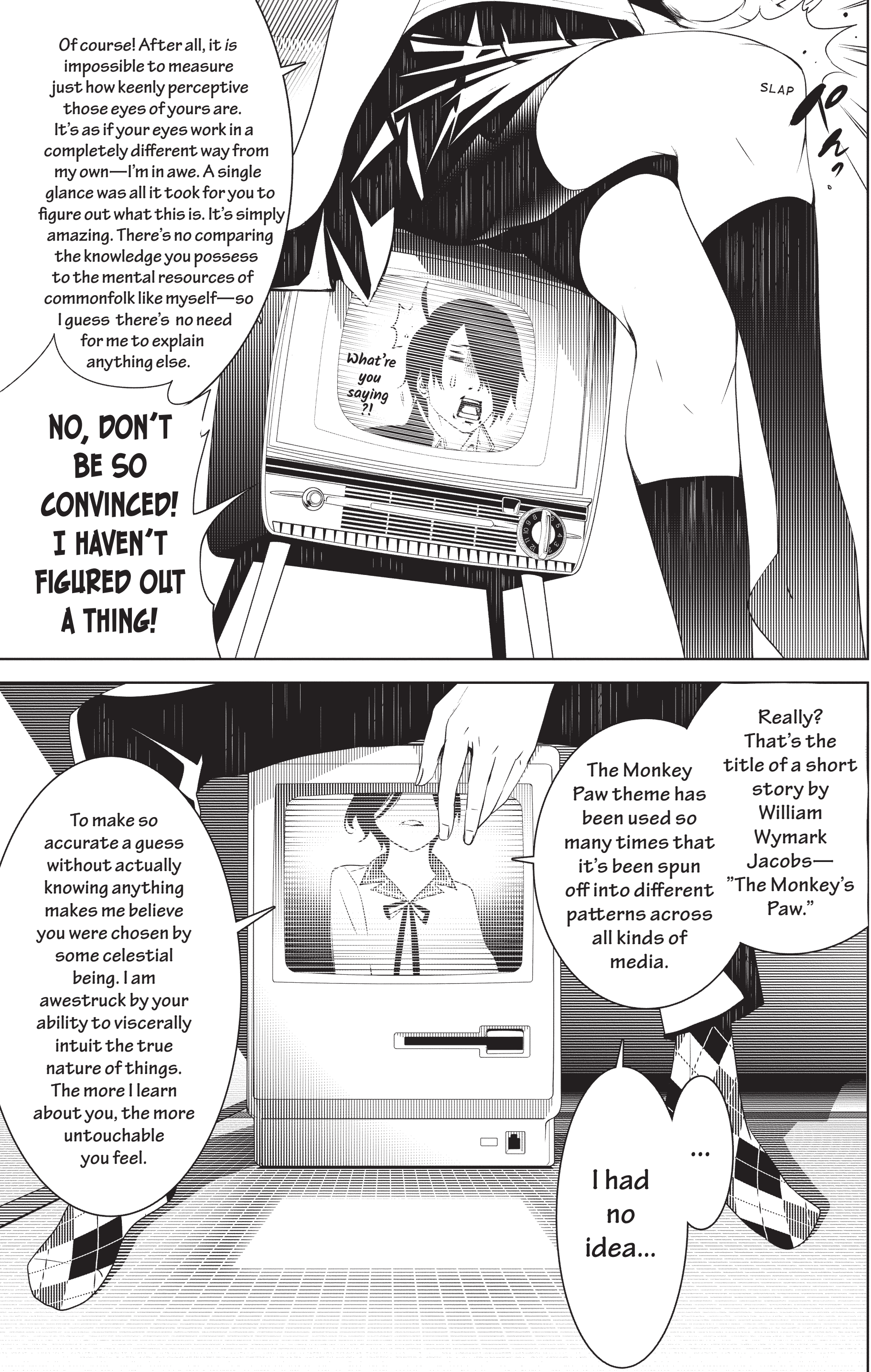
SKREECH
Oop!
NWAHHH?!
SGREEE
Oh, yeah.
I'm not so great at talking, so I'm not sure where to even start from...
BOW
But let me first apologize for what happened last night.
I'm sorry.
...I didn't mean for that to happen.


...So it was you after all.
"After all"? How modest of you. You've already figured everything out, haven't you?
I think I know what this is. They say there are some boys who can identify a girl by the shape of her pelvis—this is like that, isn't it?
NOT EVEN CLOSE !!
She really did seem sorry...
At the very least, it didn't seem like an act.
...But "I didn't mean for that to happen"? In that case...
What did she mean to happen ...?

Present time. 4:30 PM.
Incredible, my senior Araragi!!
I had no idea that my floor mats were this color!!
Basketball is about the only thing I'm good at, so I'm pretty useless when it comes to keeping tidy!
Once we're done talking, let's take a full day and—
No, I'll even stay over so we can *really* clean this room.
I'll bring liquid cleaner and stain remover... a full set of sup-plies...
SPARKLE
ぴか
ぴか
SPARKLE
Many thanks!

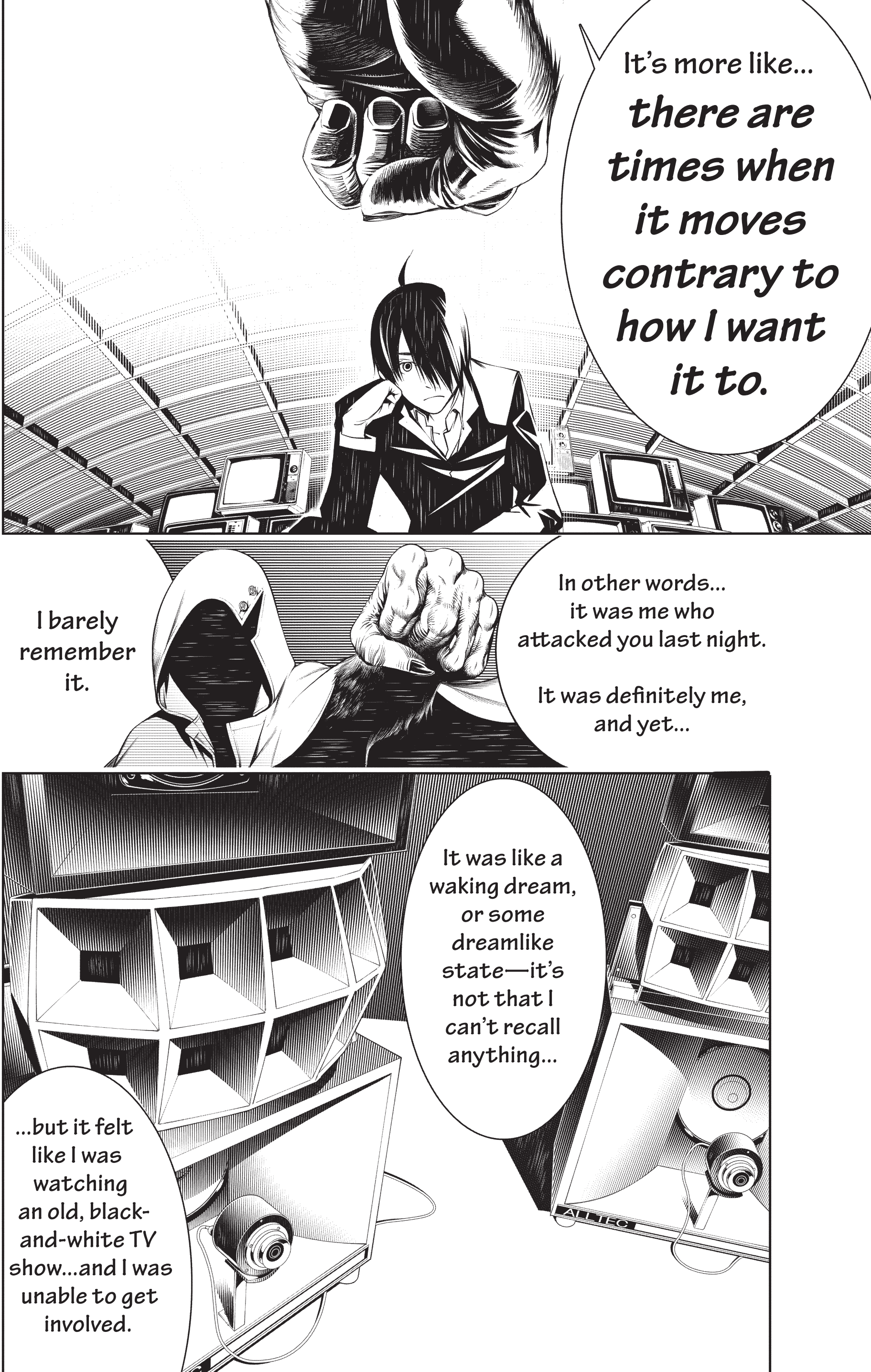
So, Kan-baru,
you and Senjogahara used to be called the Valhalla Duo?
You know so much! I under-estimated you.
I thought I'd praised you as much as I could, but it looks like I still fell short.
My petty values could never suffice to measure your full greatness.
...I also heard how it came to be.
It's a really well thought-out alias.
ISN'T IT?!
I CAME UP WITH IT MYSELF!
What?
You did ...?
I haven't felt sorrow like this in some time...
Spelling things out might come off as annoying to someone as perceptive as you,
but, well... there's something I want you to see before I talk about me and Senjogahara.

What does this look like to you?
...
It's thinner than it was last night...
But it's clearly... *that same thing*...
A monkey's paw?
—An aberration.
Huh.


Of course! After all, it *is* impossible to measure just how keenly perceptive those eyes of yours are. It's as if your eyes work in a completely different way from my own—I'm in awe. A single glance was all it took for you to figure out what this is. It's simply amazing. There's no comparing the knowledge you possess to the mental resources of commonfolk like myself—so I guess there's no need for me to explain anything else.
SLAP
What're you saying ?!
NO, DON'T BE SO CONVINCED! I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT A THING!
Really? That's the title of a short story by William Wymark Jacobs—"The Monkey's Paw."
The Monkey Paw theme has been used so many times that it's been spun off into different patterns across all kinds of media.
To make so accurate a guess without actually knowing anything makes me believe you were chosen by some celestial being. I am awestruck by your ability to viscerally intuit the true nature of things. The more I learn about you, the more untouchable you feel.
...
I had no idea...

...Um.
Can I touch it?
Yup.
It's fine for now.
Well... yeah. I know where this is going.
...
I did come here to figure out *whether or not this would need to be discussed with a certain someone.*
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH
Oshino.
That sketchy older dude.
I don't think I'll be able to get anywhere with this unless I ask him for help.
...MH!
NO...!
AH!
QUIVER
AAH!
STOP WITH THE WEIRD NOISES!
PEOPLE WILL GET A BAD IMPRESSION OF ME IF YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! WHAT IF YOUR PARENTS HEARD YOU JUST NOW?!
Well, you touched a weird spot.

Oh.
No worries there. That won't be an issue.
You don't need to worry about them. Not at all.
Huh?
Why is she making it sound like she doesn't want me asking about her parents ...?
We are done talking here
GROPE
GROPE
As you can see, right now, it moves as I want it to.
GROPE
WAIT, SO YOU WANT ME TO SEE YOU GROPING YOURSELF?!
But... there are also times when it won't—
No...
That's not quite how I should put it.


It's more like... **there are times when it moves contrary to how I want it to.**
In other words... it was me who attacked you last night.
It was definitely me, and yet...
I barely remember it.
It was like a waking dream, or some dreamlike state—it's not that I can't recall anything...
...but it felt like I was watching an old, black-and-white TV show...and I was unable to get involved.
ALLTEC

A trance.
It was the same with Hanekawa.
Aberrations that possess the flesh have their way with your mind and body.
MYAHAHA
Of course, that's also why Hanekawa hardly remembers anything about what happened over Golden Week.
...I see.
So it's called an "aberration." You sure know a lot.
No...
I really don't know much myself.

But don't worry.
I'm not here to fight you.
I just thought that maybe I could help.
With your own issue, of course... but also with you and Senjogahara...
in all kinds of ways.

I'm fortunate you're so broadminded. To be honest, I didn't really want people seeing this arm. I'm still a girl at the end of the day, you know.
If you ran away the moment I showed it to you, I would've felt more than a little hurt.
Heh... Well, I'm used to dealing with this kind of thing.
There's not much that can shock me.
Ah.
All right.
Let's go straight into it, then.
...
Hm?

I'm a lesbian.
...
I was shocked.

WAAUGH
That knocked the wind out of my sails.
BOOM
HURK
HURK
My emotions took a tumble, and yet—
I'm a lesbian.
No, no. Maybe this is how girls are these days. I need to be less serious about this—more liberal.
Umm...
Yeah...
I see.
Gotcha.
Maybe I was a little too blunt. You are a man, after all. Allow me to correct myself.
Mm-hm.

I'm a sapphist.
THAT'S THE SAME THING!!
GRIN
GRIN
Ah!
Hold on!
Yes...
It seems that girl...
...hasn't forgotten me, after all.
Is that why... they were the Valhalla Duo
in middle school?
Senjogahara *did* call her "that girl"...
And she talked about "liquidating" her relation-ships—huh?
What?
What's going on here?!

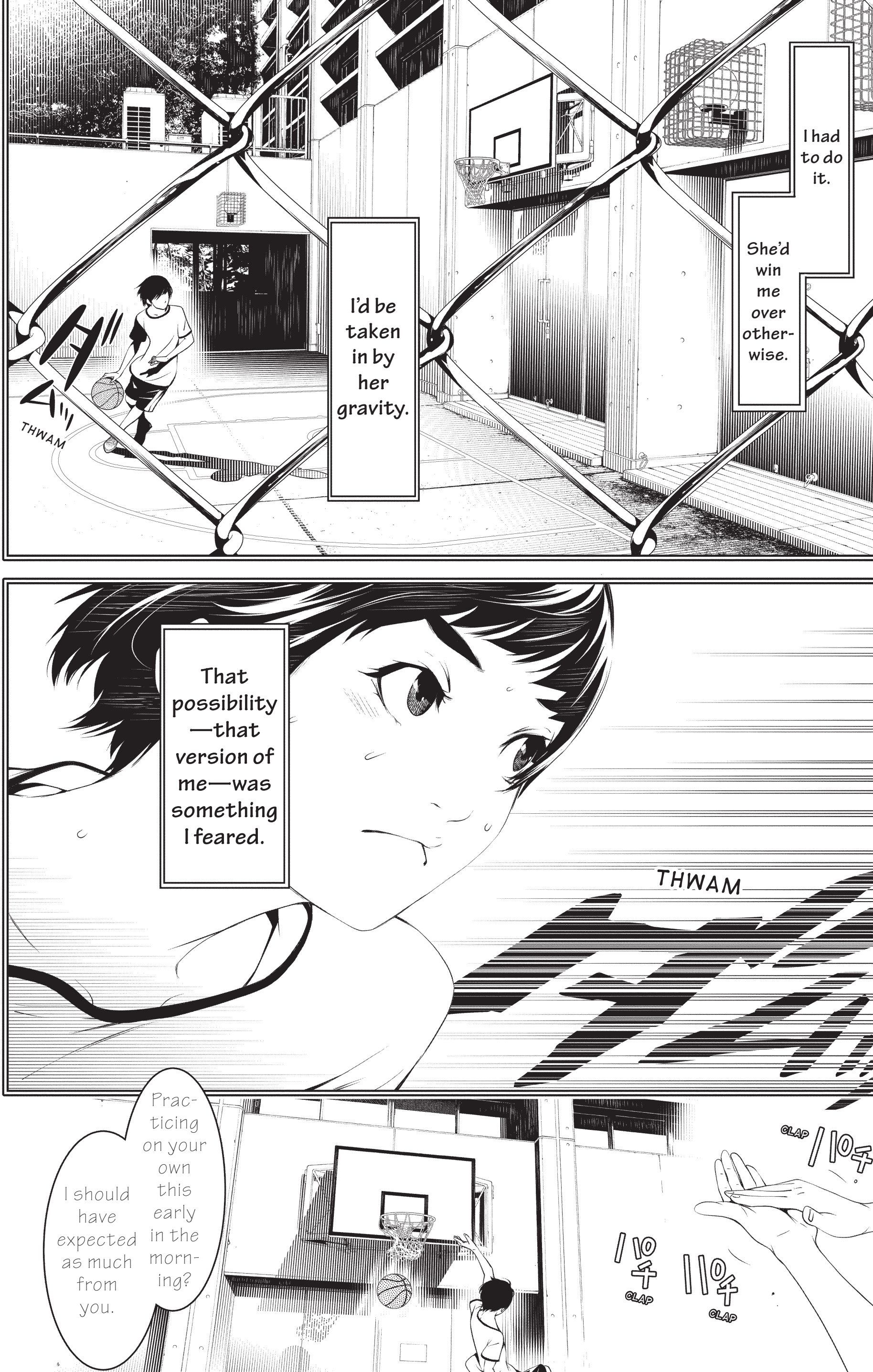
Music: El Bimbo
チャラララララー
BWADADADADA
ツッタカツッタカツッタカツッタカ
MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-MM-TSK-A-
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
Oh, it wasn't like that.
I had a crush on her, but it was one-sided.
To me, she was my perfect senior who I purely loved and admired.

But...
I was so captivated by her that I would have chewed her used gum if I had the chance.
Not candy. Gum. You could say I was crazy for her.
I was even ready to die for her sake. Yes, you could say that I wanted her, dead or *in love.*
I don't really understand her standards when it comes to candy versus gum...
DOT
DOT
DOT
...Hm.
Umm ...?
Or in love?
MMM!!
THAT CAME OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?!
AH
PRETTY INSPIRED OF ME TO PLAY ON "ALIVE" AND "IN LOVE," IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
...
I think I know what kinda character you are...
The comic relief.
GRIP
THWAM
Four years ago.

SKREEK
キュキュキュッ
キュキュッ
SKREEK
Are you Kanbaru?
I've heard that you're quite fast. May I watch you play? I promise not to distract you.
Given that I'd revered her for so many years, what I said to myself then could be a type of betrayal,
but my first impression was simply...
A noble lady?
"She's trouble."
SHUDDER

Your legs are as impressive as they say.
So what do you think?
It was a pretty blatant case of head-hunting.
Would you like to join the track team? It's not too late.
Would you like to spend your adolescence with me, as friends and as rivals?
FWOOF
...
What is with her...?
Sorry, pal, not today!!!
AND WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
The two of you!

ZAKK
SST
Oh my. It's good to see that much energy from you.
It's fine, everyone. I love domesticating cute girls like her.
Maybe I was at an age where I wanted to reject authority ...
In any case, that's how I turned down Senjogahara's invitation.
No ...
It must have been some-thing else.



I had to do it.
She'd win me over other-wise.
I'd be taken in by her gravity.
THWAM
That possibility—that version of me—was something I feared.
THWAM
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Prac-ticing on your own this early in the morn-ing?
I should have expected as much from you.

Kanbaru,
let's have a contest.
You won't back down from a challenge. I know that's the type of girl you are.
If I win, you join the track team. Understand?
...
So are you going to join the basketball team if I win?
Huh?
Why?
Wh- Whaa?!
Well, I'll stop visiting the basketball team every day.
Your plan was to visit every day?!
AH!
THAT'S MORE LIKE THE SENJO-GAHARA I KNOW!

SWISH
Free throws.
Ten each, whoever lands more wins.
But ...
...it was no good.

My heart was already hers.
It had already surrendered to that senior of mine.
I know what you mean. Who wouldn't fall for her after seeing her panties in the open like that?
EXACTLY. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU TO GET IT.
WHUMP

It seems you've won,
Kanbaru.
It was a good bout. Well, then...
I will accept my defeat with grace and give up on you.
...
That was on purpose, wasn't it?
She went out of her way to challenge me to a contest where she'd be at a disadvantage.
Because by losing in front of the whole school...
Your plan... was to do this from the start!
Whatever could you be talking about?
Good day.

When she did that, Senjogahara...
...she protected me.
Yeah... You were a first-year student who'd just insulted the big boss of all seniors.
You could expect to get punished on the spot for something like that. You could've even been forced to quit the basketball team.
—So that's why.
If the big boss backed out *fair and square*...
...her underlings couldn't lay a finger on Kanbaru. Doing so would betray their boss.
...
So the real Senjogahara... is even capable of being considerate...
I'M BAD AT STUDYING, AND NAOETSU HIGH IS A HARD SCHOOL TO GET INTO, BUT I GOT IN BECAUSE OF HER.
I WORKED MYSELF TO DEATH SO I COULD GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS SENJOGAHARA... AND TELL HER HOW I FELT.

And then.
I came to regret it.

I heard she had a boy-friend.
I had to see for myself. I couldn't help it.
And there she stood, my senior Senjogahara, with a happy smile on her face that I'd never seen before.
...
I wonder which shower of verbal abuse you saw...
I felt so much envy.
That envy grew, and grew ...
And grew some more ...
And at one point ...
...I tried to rethink things.
But there was no end in sight for my envy.

Whoa!
...Which is why I made a wish.
To this Monkey's Paw.

The Monkey’s Paw grants its owner’s wishes.
The Monkey’s Paw
But never in the way its owner intends.
A classic by William Wymark Jacobs.
When you hear the story of “The Monkey’s Paw”...
...you’ll soon realize that it’s a well-made story of horror and aberrations.

My senior Araragi.
Is this Mèmè Oshino person's home far?
VWOOSH

QUALITY STANDARD
Y SAUCE
KICK-
KO-
MAN
Well, I figure we can make it there before dark.
Oh. Well, that's good.

Once it gets dark...
...I imagine *this guy* will start moving again.
The Monkey's Paw grants three wishes.
But it seems...
...that it was made by an old, miracle-working ascetic in India.
It was an item made to teach humans that they must live according to their fate.
It serves as a lesson that calamity will befall any who try to oppose what is meant to be.

For example, you might wish to rise in your company's ranks.
The Monkey's Paw then grants that wish.
The next day, the company takes a dip, causing the higher ups to be fired.
Fradulent Accounting
Tax Evasion
Layoffs
Excessive Debts
In the red
As a result, you rise up in the organization to fill their place in a company on the verge of bankruptcy.
You might wish for a great fortune.
And the next day, your entire family dies in an accident, causing you to earn a wind-fall insurance payment... and so on.
That's how it goes.
You see ...
I noticed Senjogahara had changed as soon as I began high school.

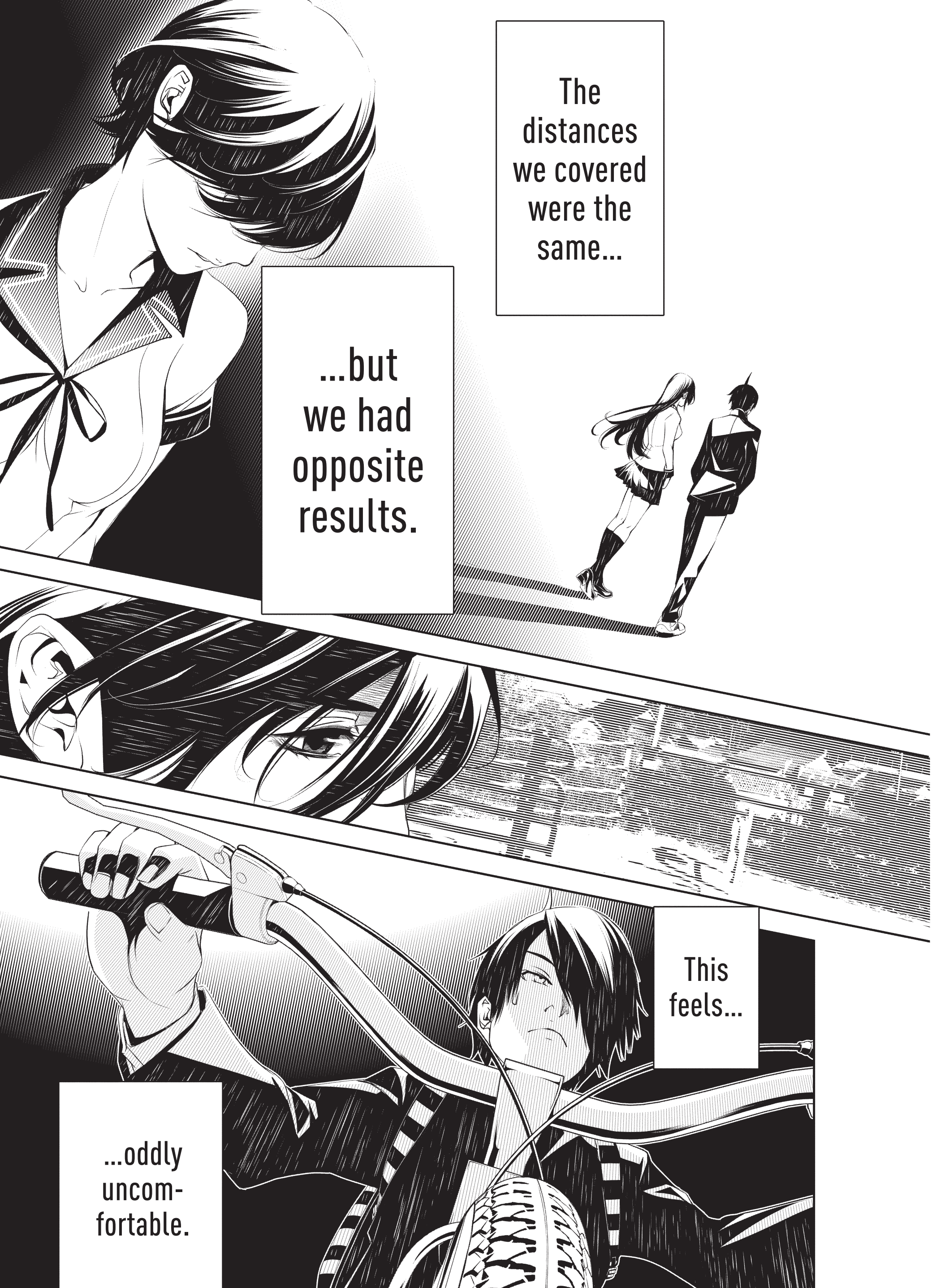
She'd become a completely different person.
I loved her more than anyone else, so it's only natural that I would notice...
But I don't know...
Some-how, I thought I could fix it.
Maybe I couldn't get rid of the problem...
But even so, I thought I could at least soothe her soul by staying by her side.
That's what I had in mind.

KA-SHUNK
But I was soundly rejected.
...A stapler.
I don't think of you as a friend...
...or even as my junior. Not now, nor did I ever.
She said, "Being friends with a talented junior like you increases my popularity—it was all for show."

What an awful thing to say...
Her goal... was to hurt me.
She wanted to drive me away—that was her ultimate goal.
I was happy that she called me a talented junior, though.
HMM HMM ♪
GOD, YOU'RE POSITIVE!
THROUGH AND THROUGH!
In that moment, I learned just how powerless... and conceited I was.
Senjogahara simply...*didn't want anyone near her.*
So...
I went away.

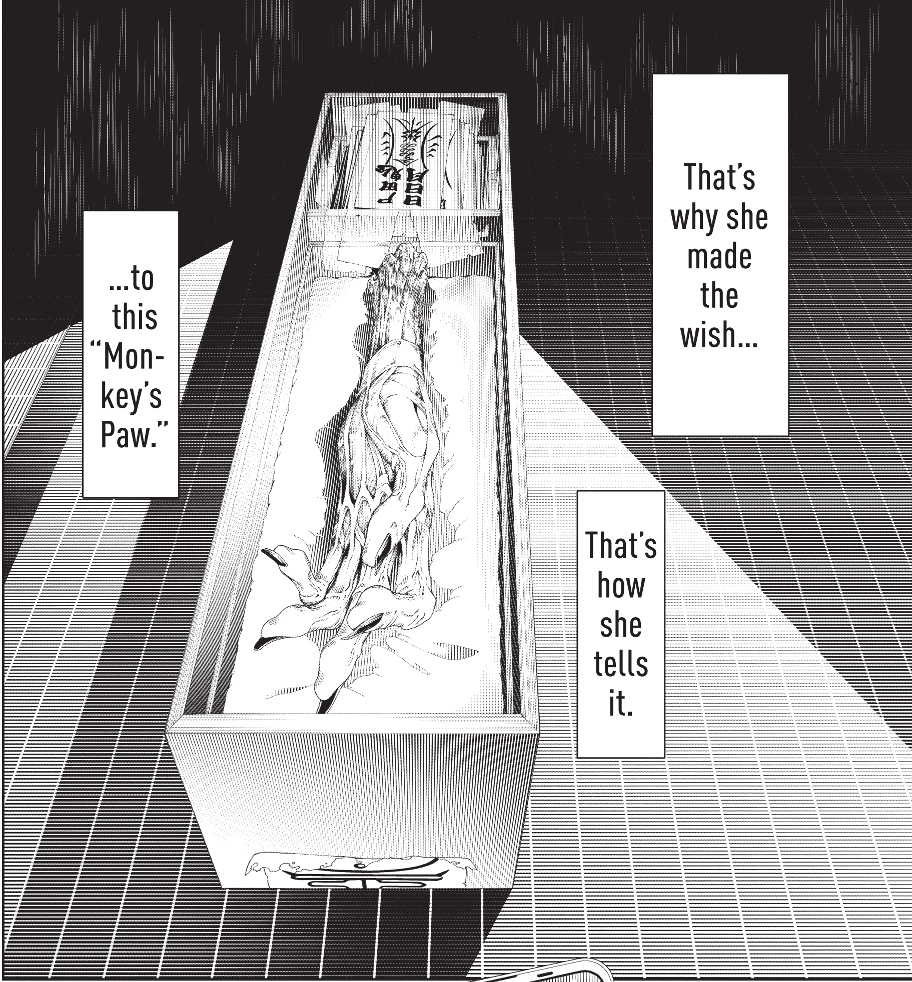
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE WANTED FROM ME.
IT WAS HER ONE AND ONLY WISH.
Kanbaru said that she took all kinds of steps to stay away from Senjogahara.
If Senjogahara could be saved by Kanbaru "not doing anything at all" then she'd do all that she could to that end.
Whatever it takes—as long as it would grant Senjogahara's wish and put her mind at ease...
You ...

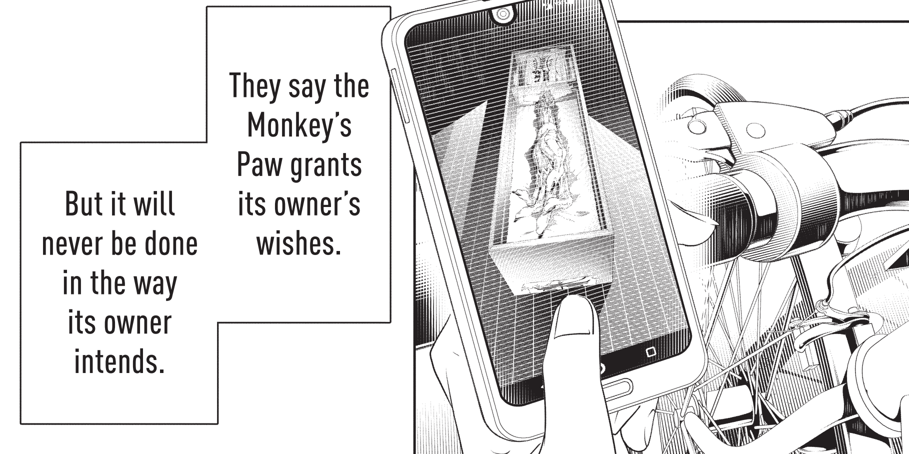
She was serious.
It was clear from the lengths she went to.
But isn't the feeling we call love
a very conscious thing from the start?
If you could collect the energy it takes to fall in love with someone—if you could amass all that effort and measure it,
then the amount contained in Kanbaru's love for Senjogahara might be far greater than mine.
I had gone after her.
And Kanbaru stepped away from her.


The distances we covered were the same...
...but we had opposite results.
This feels...
...oddly uncom-fortable.

I feel guilty.
So when I heard that you two were going out...
...I was jealous of you and disappointed in her.
Why didn't she want me?
Is it because I'm a woman?
Maybe she didn't need friends or juniors, but wanted a lover?

And if it was a lover she wanted—
if that was the case...
Then what's so bad about me?


That's why she made the wish...
...to this "Mon-key's Paw."
That's how she tells it.


They say the Monkey's Paw grants its owner's wishes.
But it will never be done in the way its owner intends.

In other words, this Monkey's Paw aberration...
...seems to be trying to grant Kanbaru's wish by slaughtering me.
Please believe me when I say this...
I respect you from the bottom of my heart, my senior Araragi.
But ...
I respect you because you did the thing I tried so very hard to do but failed to accomplish.
And you did it all like it was the most natural thing in the world.

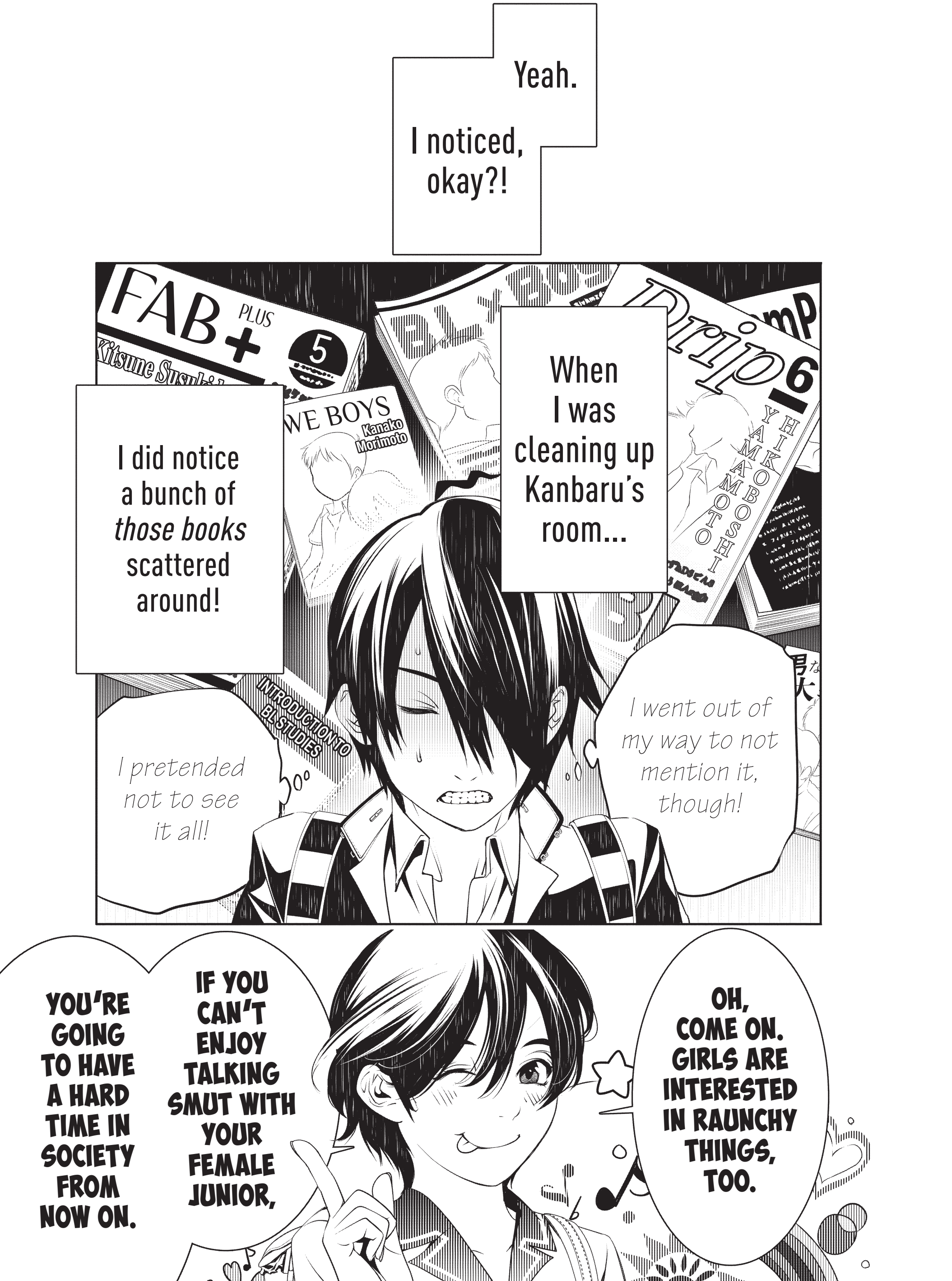
Thank you, my senior Araragi.
For saving Senjo-gahara.
I mean it.
Thank you so much.
...
Er, no... I just...
Now then, my senior Araragi...
There's one thing I want to ask you.

What part of Senjo-gahara... attracted you to her?
Hm?
What part...?
What was it that made you think you wanted to go out with her?
30
You'd barely had a proper conversation with her until the other day, right?
Er... well.
...
Why're you asking something like that, Kanbaru?
SKREE
Well.
In other words.
And this is just a hypo-thetical.
But hypo-thetically speaking...

IF IT'S JUST HER BODY THAT YOU'RE AFTER...
...I THINK I COULD TAKE HER PLACE.

...
I THINK I'M PRETTY CUTE.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO SAY THAT ABOUT YOURSELF OUT LOUD?!
I'm ready to do this, you know.
Even right here and right now would be fine with me.
All you have to do is ask. Any time and any place, and I'll be the bottom to your top.
GROPE
GROPE
GROPE
BOTTOM?! TOP?!
WHY DO I HAVE TO WANT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
AND YOU KNOW WE'RE IN PUBLIC RIGHT NOW!!

I'd like to save my maidenhood for Senjogahara,
so my relationship with you would be a BL thing on the side.
SQUISH
SQUISH
SQUISH
BL?
ON THE SIDE?!
LISTEN, THAT'S ENOUGH! WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!
NO ENTRY
I'm really more of a sub, though, so I can't really top.
Sub?! Huh?!
What?
...Jeez.
I've been waiting so long that I nearly fell asleep, Araragi.



Yeah.
I noticed, okay?!
When I was cleaning up Kanbaru's room...
I did notice a bunch of *those books* scattered around!
FAB PLUS + 5
WE BOYS Kanako Morimoto
Drip 6 HIKOBOSHI YAMAMOTO
INTRODUCTION TO BL STUDIES
I went out of my way to not mention it, though!
I pretended not to see it all!
OH, COME ON. GIRLS ARE INTERESTED IN RAUNCHY THINGS, TOO.
IF YOU CAN'T ENJOY TALKING SMUT WITH YOUR FEMALE JUNIOR,
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME IN SOCIETY FROM NOW ON.

All right. Then let's go back to the topic of you being a briefs guy or a boxers guy.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT?!
GROPE
GROPE
GROPE
Hm?
Then was it whether or not I wear panties under my bike shorts?
BLOOP

DO YOU NOT, MISS KANBARU?!
TH-THEN THOSE BIKE SHORTS PEEKING OUT FROM UNDER YOUR SKIRT ARE...!
Even if that *is* the case, why be shocked?
Bike shorts were originally designed as a form of underwear.
ALL THE MORE SO THEN! YOU MEAN YOU'RE WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR UNDERWEAR OUT FOR THE WORLD TO SEE?!
Hm. Yes, I suppose you could say that, but just think of it as a stylish gift from a sporty girl.
GROPE
GROPE
NO! IT'S THE PERVERTED BEHAVIOR OF AN EXHIBITIONIST!

Oh, now I remember.
We were talking about whether I could be a substitute for Senjogahara.
HOLD ON! DON'T REWIND THE CONVERSATION AND LEAVE THE QUESTION UNANSWERED!
YOU NEED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT! ARE YOU OR AREN'T YOU WEARING SOMETHING UNDERNEATH?! ARE YOU AN EXHIBITIONIST OR A SPORTY GIRL?!
Okay, well, how about we look at it this way?
SWOOOSH
I'm a sporty girl to those who see me as a sporty girl, and an exhibitionist to those who see me as an exhibitionist—okay?
THAT KIND OF LINE STOPS BEING COOL ONCE YOU GET OUT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, OKAY?!

WUHH ?!
H- Hey, Araragi?
What was with... *that* girl?
Hm?
Oh... Her name's Shinobu, and...um...
Well... how should I put this...?

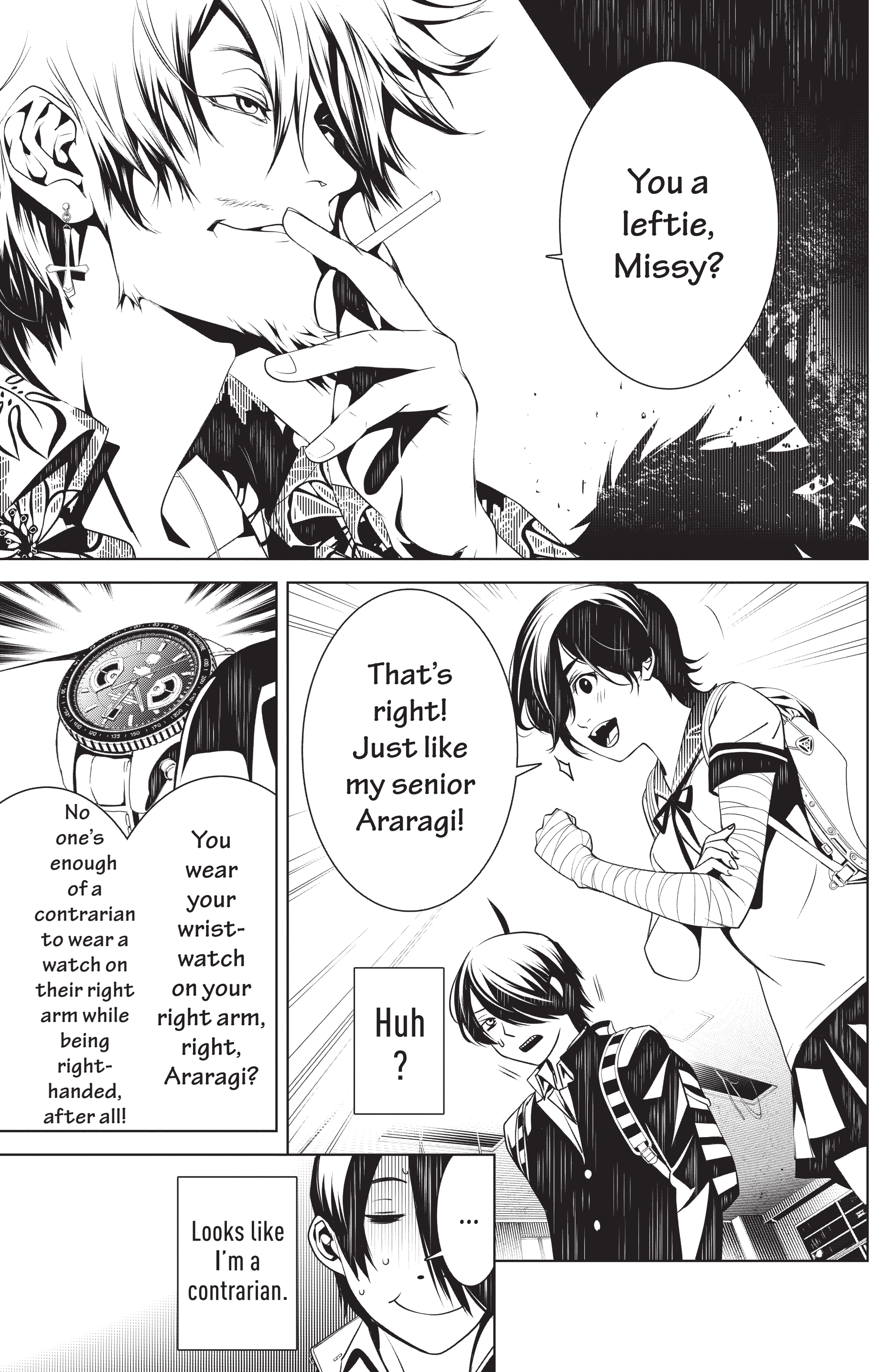
SHE WAS SUPER FREAKING CUTE!!
SHIIINE
I WANT TO HOLD HER IN MY ARMS!! NO, I WANT HER TO HOLD ME IN HERS!!
YOU FALL FOR ANYONE, DON'T YOU?!
TODAY'S TOP SMILE
You ought to stay away from that one ...!
So Senjogahara wasn't the only girl she had her eyes on...?
And she even likes the younger ones, too...
AWW...
SLUMP
WHAT'S WITH THAT POSE?!
WHAT WERE YOU GETTING READY TO DO?!
TODAY'S TOP DISAPPOINTED FACE

Huh ...?
Was this entrance always here?
Now that I think about it...there's something strange about this whole building...
It's right in front of the station, which should place it in a good spot... *but no one pays any attention to it*.

You have to shift how people understand things—just a tiny little bit.
Oshino.
Their perspective. Their outlook. Their position.
The slightest change in angle can turn something evident into something invisible.
Didn't you learn that before? You know, from that little girl.
Mayoi Hachikuji, was it?
Just think of it as a technique that applies the same idea.

So, this place itself is like an aberration...
A "barrier," huh...?
It's there for those who think it is,
and for those who think it's not there— it isn't.
Shut up. Don't keep spouting the same lines.
More importantly, you've brought yet another girl with you. It's a new one every time we meet, huh?
How do you write that again? Kanbaru as in "god" and "plains" ...?
What about the "Suruga" part, then?
HELLO! IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!!
I'M SURUGA KANBARU!!

Suruga as in "Suruga-toi."
KRAK
Ah, Suruga-toi. Of course, of course...
?
Suruga-toi
SPINS
WHIPS
WEIGHT
An Edo-period torture technique.
...Don't use torture to explain how to write your name...
It's something that I'd love to undergo once in my life.
So she's a sapphist, a BL fan, an exhibitionist, a pedo, and a masochist ...?
How could all of that apply to any one person?

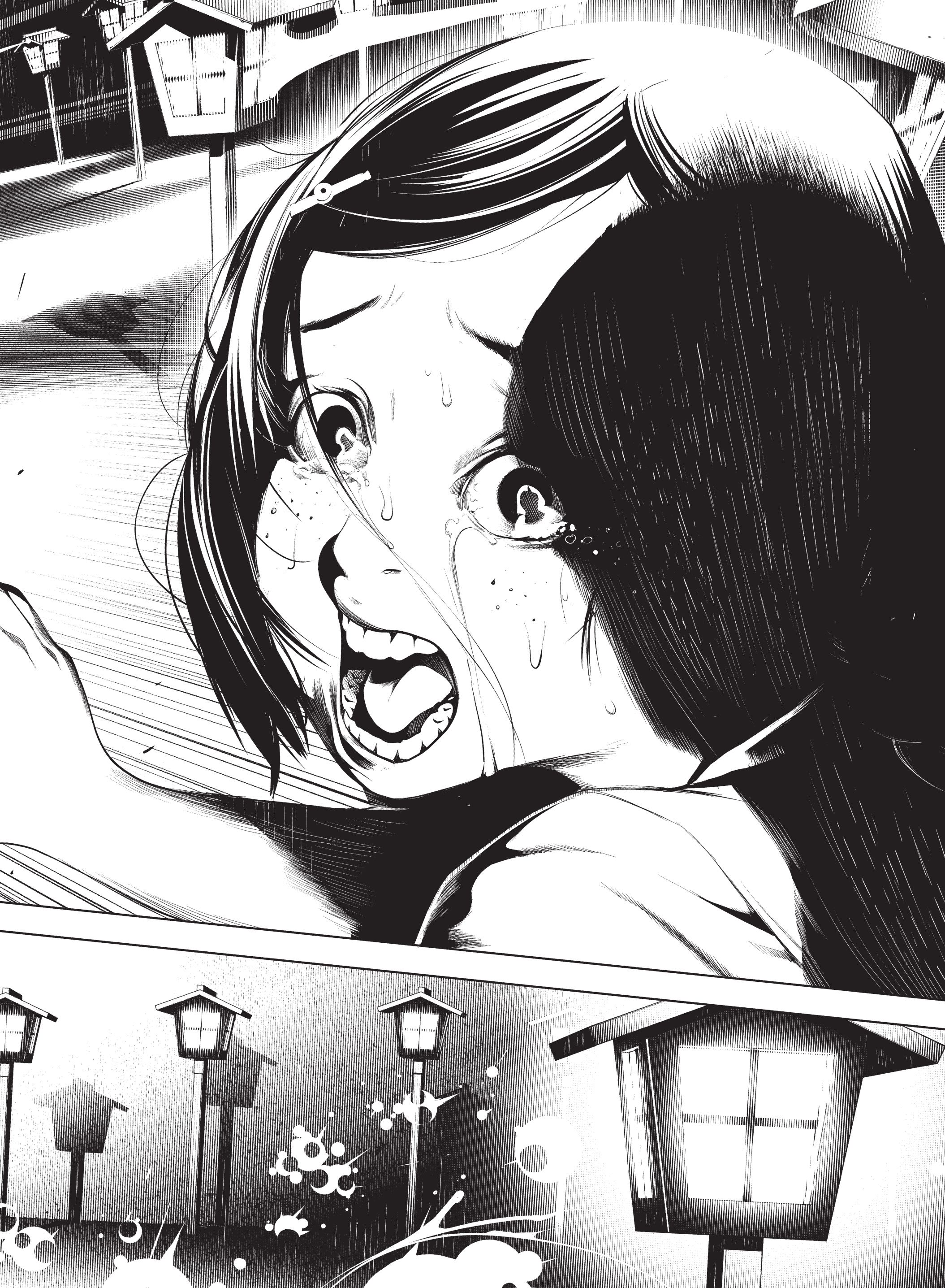

You a leftie, Missy?
That's right! Just like my senior Araragi!
Huh?
You wear your wrist-watch on your right arm, right, Araragi?
No one's enough of a contrarian to wear a watch on their right arm while being right-handed, after all!
...
Looks like I'm a contrarian.

Let's start from the beginning... It doesn't seem like a very happy story, though.
Stories about arms never are, in my experience. Especially...
...if it's your left hand.

This...
...is something my mother left me.
Apparently it had been handed down for generations on her side of the family.
It was given to me when I was in third grade.

MERGE AHEAD
MERGE
MERGE
A few days later,
my mother passed away in a car crash with my father.
It was almost as if she had predicted something would happen.
Timed as though she knew in advance.
Then,
I was taken in by my grandparents on my father's side. They were wonderful people, but...
Kanbaru was bullied after transferring to her new school.
That's what she told us.

I know I talk like this now, but I had an awful accent back then.
I had my own issues, too. I often had my parents on my mind, after all.
THWAP
She told us that she was also teased for being slow and unathletic ...
Huh? Whaaa ?!
—My mother...
She never told me
not to open it.
BE MORE SERIOUS!
What language are you speaking?
DUMMY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
Learn to run!



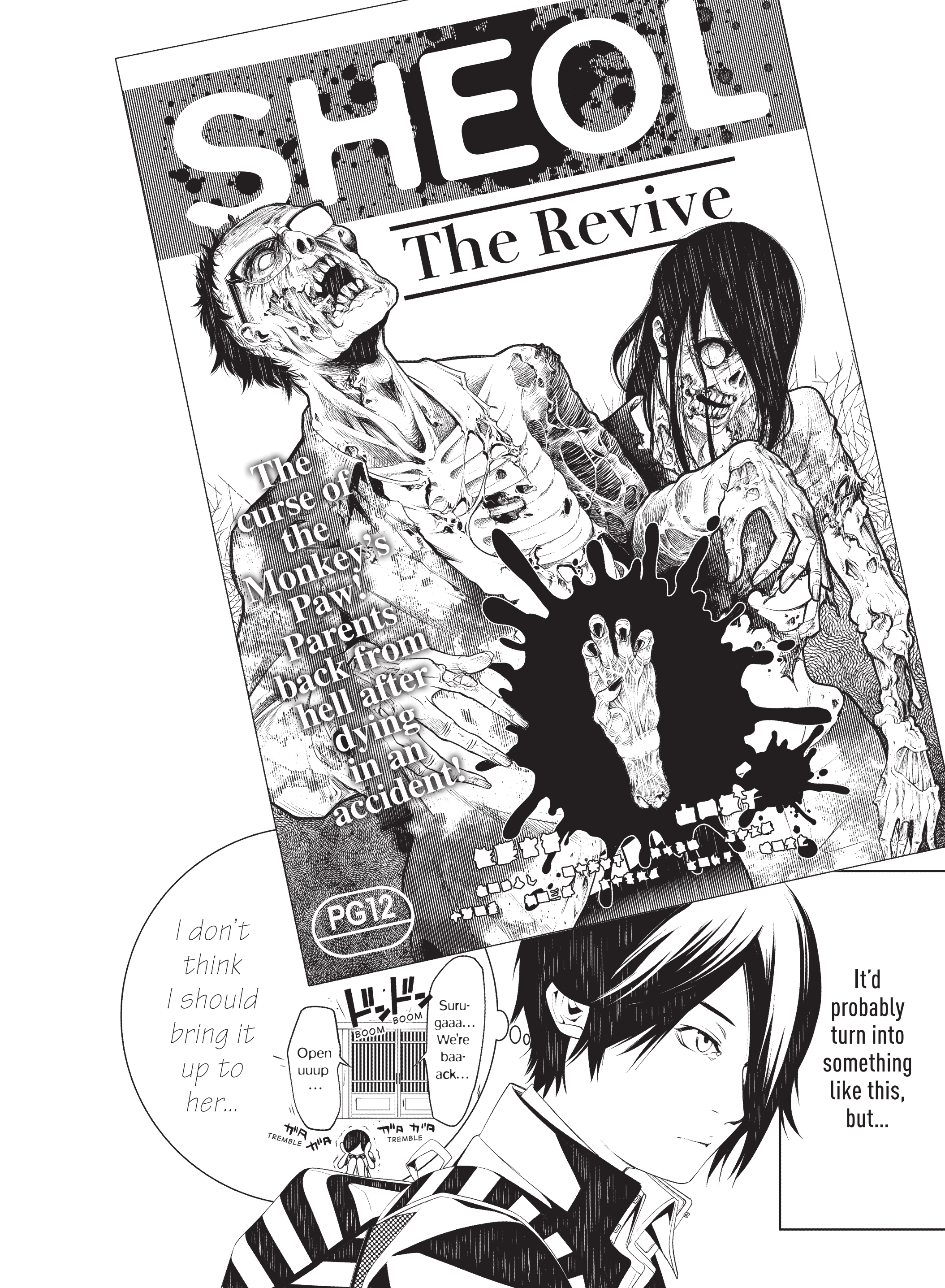
That day...
...she said she had a "dream."

It didn't matter what the first wish was.
It's not like I really believed it would work or anything...
I guess I was just checking it out—I treated it lightly, like a horoscope in a magazine.

"I want to be able to run faster."
...I'm sure you've figured out how this story ends, right?
LEMENTARY FIELD DAY
the results of your practice.
careful about heat
In my dream, that monstrous left hand was assaulting students from my school.
It attacked the four students that were supposed to run the same race as me on field day.
All four of them... were absent the next day.
I was terrified ...

I went to the library in a panic to find out what this mummified left hand was.
And that's when I learned about Jacobs' "The Monkey's Paw."
Huh ...
"The Monkey's Paw."
...I see.

My first wish to the Monkey's Paw was to be able to run faster.
...That experience sent chills down my spine... I was so glad I wished for something as trivial as that...
Because my real wish...was going to be my second one...
Her second wish...?
What that wish was—goes without saying, I think.
It had to have been related to the death of her parents, so—



SHEOL
The Revive
The curse of the Monkey's Paw! Parents back from hell after dying in an accident!
PG12
It'd probably turn into something like this, but...
I don't think I should bring it up to her...
ドンドン
BOOM BOOM
Suru-gaaa... We're baa-ack...
Open uuup ...
ガタ ガタ
TREMBLE
ガタ ガタ
TREMBLE

...The four classmates who were attacked by the monster were fine...
So... they didn't die?
...
Even though they were attacked by that monster ...?
...but only through sheer luck. They could have easily died that day.
I sealed the Monkey's Paw in its box even tighter than before, then stuffed it into the back of my closet.
There was no second or third wish, of course.
But, of course, that's not where the story ends.

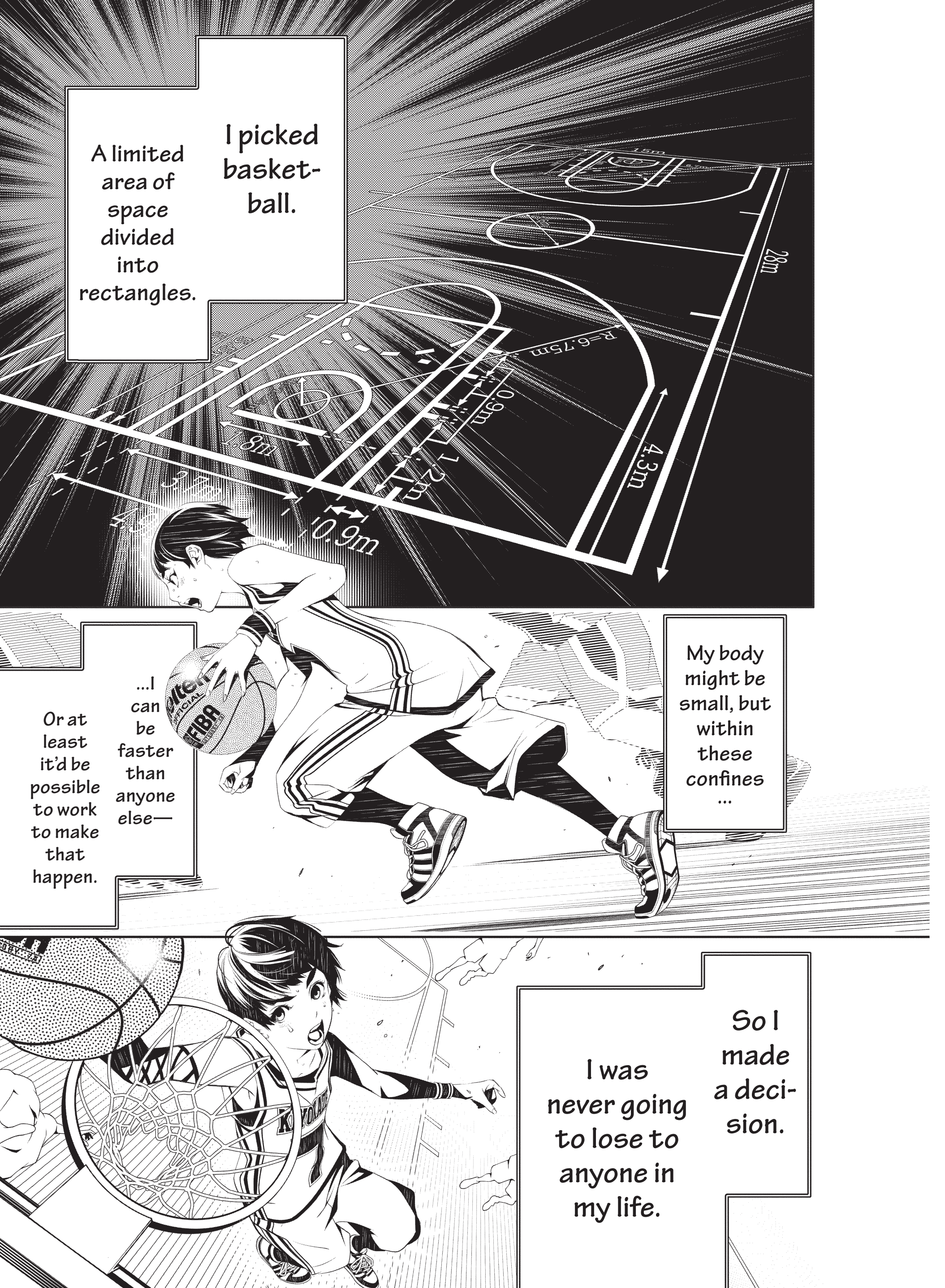
Kasuga
3-3
Kanbaru
3-3
Shioya
3-3
Sekikawa
3-3
Now there were five.
They put me in a different group with five people in it.
So... what do you think I did?

What do you think ...
...I should have done?

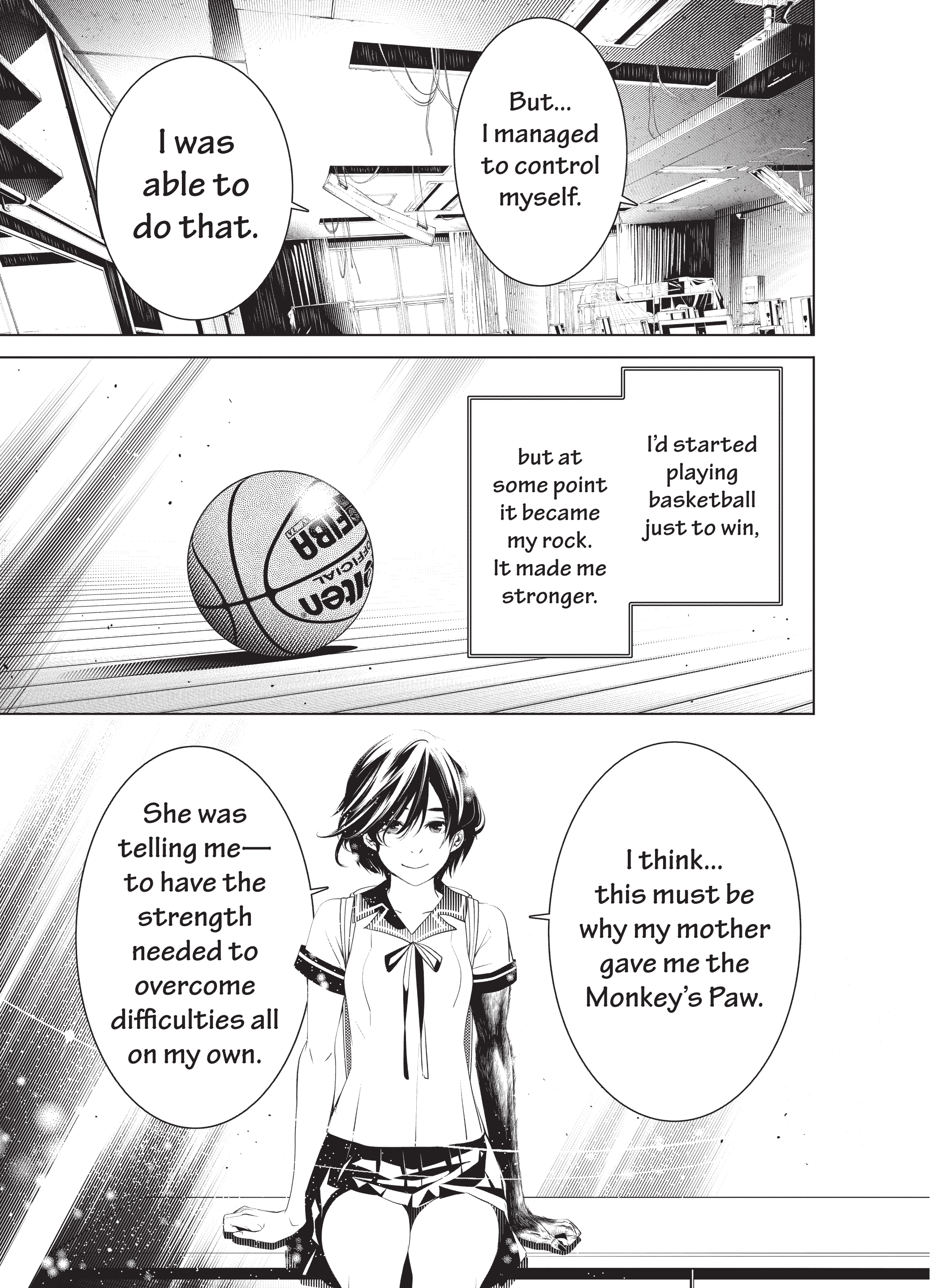
I ran.

I worked to become fast.
I ran and ran and ran, each and every day.
I did it to make sure that the same tragedy would never happen again.
THD
THD
THD
THD
THD
THD
THD
THD
KHAAH
Fortunately, my efforts paid off...
I took first place in field day without any trouble.
It's not like I'd expect any other third-grade girls to train for field day, after all.

But what should I have done *next?*
How potent was the Monkey's Paw?
Maybe its effects had already worn off, or maybe it would have kept going for five or ten years, or even for the rest of my life.
It's going to be bad if I ever lose a race, though...
At the very least, there's always the possibility of that being the case.
But... is it really possible to remain undefeated ...?
考察した
I examined
Analysis
I considered
I thought
I scrutinized
I reflected
I contemplated
I inquired
I speculated
思索に耽り
And so ...

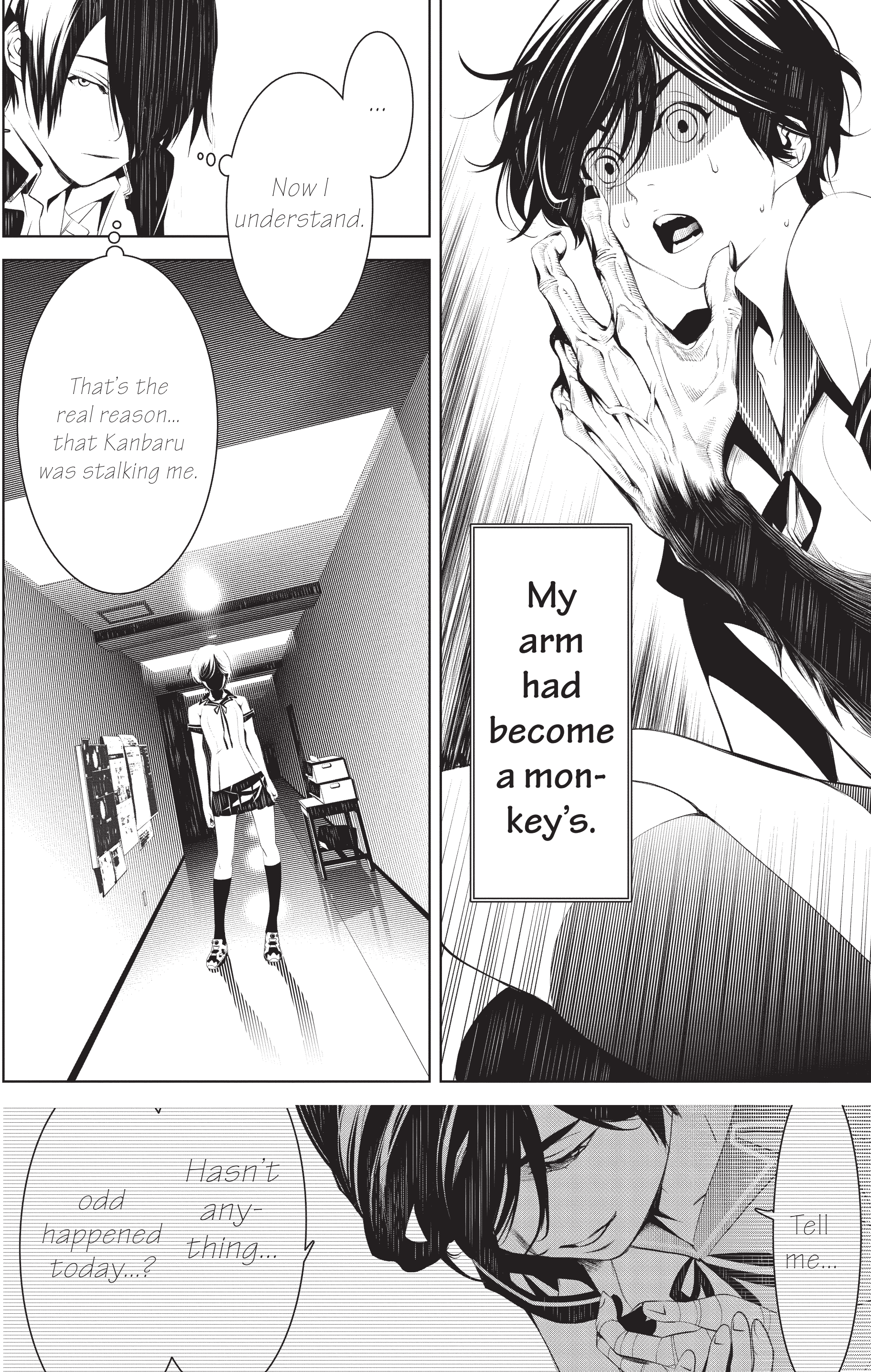

I picked basket-ball.
A limited area of space divided into rectangles.
28m
R=6.75m
0.9m
1.8m
1.2m
4.3m
0.9m
My body might be small, but within these confines ...
...I can be faster than anyone else—
Or at least it'd be possible to work to make that happen.
FIBA
So I made a deci-sion.
I was never going to lose to anyone in my life.

People say I'm a sporty girl...but what I've told you is the truth of the matter.
I was just moved to act by fear, and that's it.
...
She did, of course, find herself tempted by the Monkey's Paw many times after that—according to her.
Like when she needed to face off against a powerhouse team in order to get her ticket to the nationals.
Or when she was diligently studying in order to enter Naoetsu High.
CONGRATS ON MAKING IT TO THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT
Girls' Basketball Team
Naoetsu High School Student Council
Or...when she was rejected by Senjogahara.


But... I managed to control myself.
I was able to do that.
I'd started playing basketball just to win,
but at some point it became my rock. It made me stronger.
I think... this must be why my mother gave me the Monkey's Paw.
She was telling me—to have the strength needed to overcome difficulties all on my own.

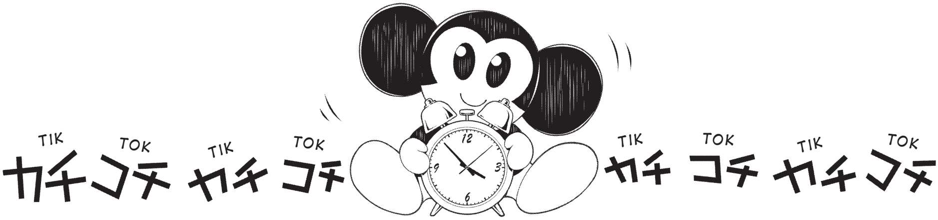
But then, I saw it.
My senior Senjo-gahara, with that smile on her face.

I ran straight home...
...and impulsively opened up the box that contained the Monkey's Paw...
Hm...?
Was the arm always this long...? I'm pretty sure...
...it was only down to the wrist before...
It's all a blank after that. By the time I came to ...
BI-BEEP
SNAP
That's all I can recall.


My arm had become a mon-key's.
...
Now I understand.
That's the real reason... that Kanbaru was stalking me.
Tell me...
Hasn't any-thing...
odd happened today...?

I'm sure she didn't even want to come to school with that arm...
Kanbaru was concerned about my well-being...
so she came to check up on me.
But then, last night...
I had a "dream."
...And that's what happened.

...
チラ
GLANCE
Missy.
Hey.
Oshino ?
How did you get it into your head that it's a Monkey's Paw?


TIK TOK TIK TOK
カチコチ カチコチ
TIK TOK TIK TOK
カチコチ カチコチ

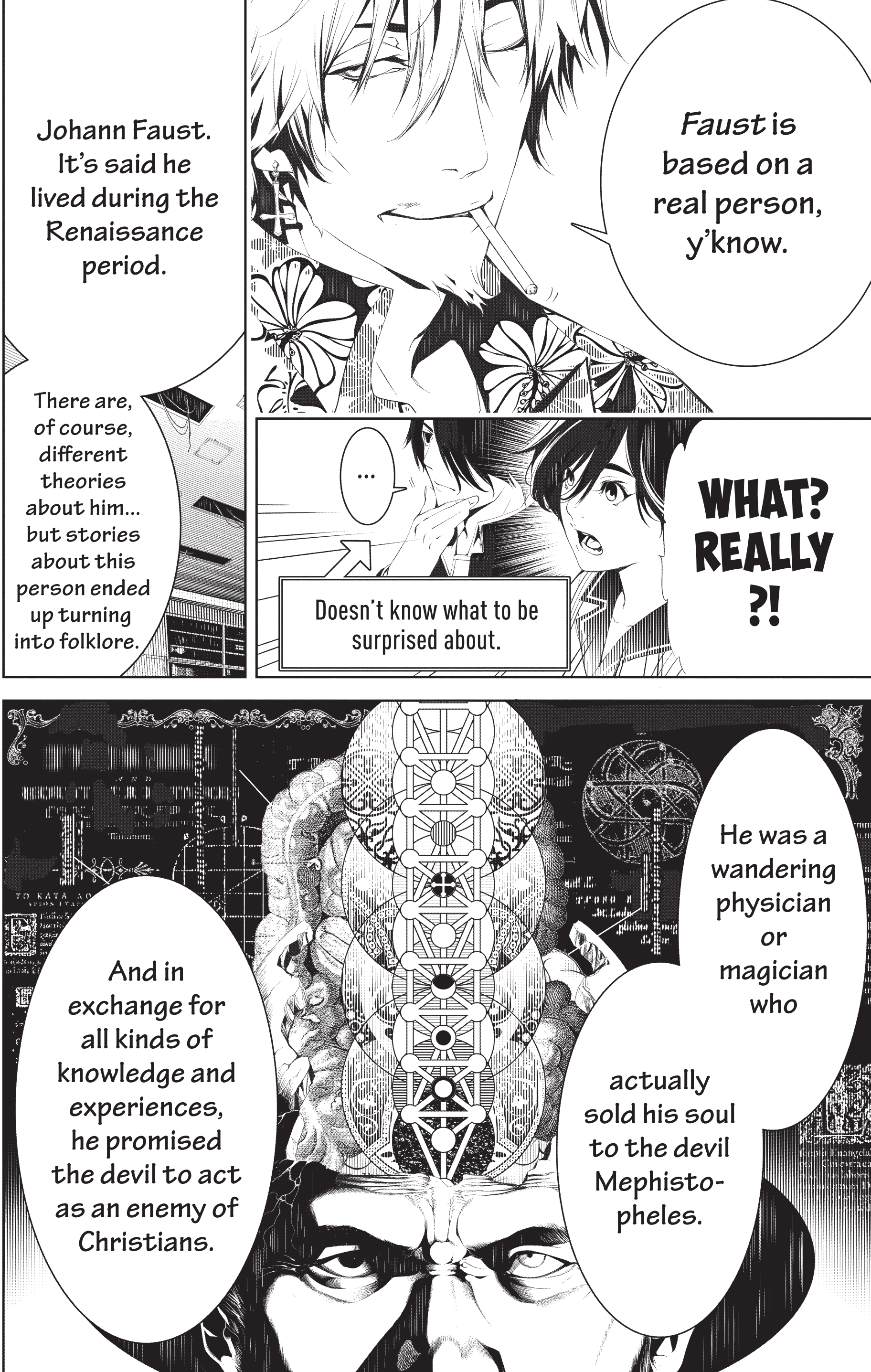
...
Hm?
Huh?
Araragi, are you familiar with *Faust*?
Wha?
Oh, yeah...
Faust, sure. Yeah, um... it's a detergent, right?
Okay, then, so you aren't.
What about you, Missy?
I...
I'm no scholar, so I haven't read it... But I do at least know the gist.

As a masterpiece among master-pieces, this classic by Goethe has been loved for ages as stage plays and puppet plays in the past while also being well known for its film adaptation by none other than Svankmajer...
And... well, to give one of its fea-tures in simple terms...
...it's a story split into two parts. Urfaust and Faust, A Fragment led to Faust, Part One and Part Two. It's a massive accomplishment that took him over sixty years to complete. I can only bow to it.

Goethe is also famous for The Sorrows of Young Werther and Elective Affinities, but if we were to pick a single work he put his whole body and soul into, the unanimous answer would be Faust. The protagonist, Doctor Faust...
...sells his soul to a devil, Mephistopheles, in order to gain all knowledge—and that ought to do as far as an introduction goes.
I won't go into details because I don't want to spoil it, but Part One is about his romance with the commoner Gretchen, while Part Two depicts the establishment of an ideal nation. It's generally read as a sort of philosophy or, I should say, a narrative about the pursuit of knowledge.
I'm sure you're aware, but it even gave rise to the expression "Faustian impulse," which describes the drive and the intellectual desire to know and experience everything.
I see. The "Faustian impulse".
...Why does this junior of mine think that her senior who hasn't even heard of Faust to begin with would be aware of the term "Faustian impulse"...?

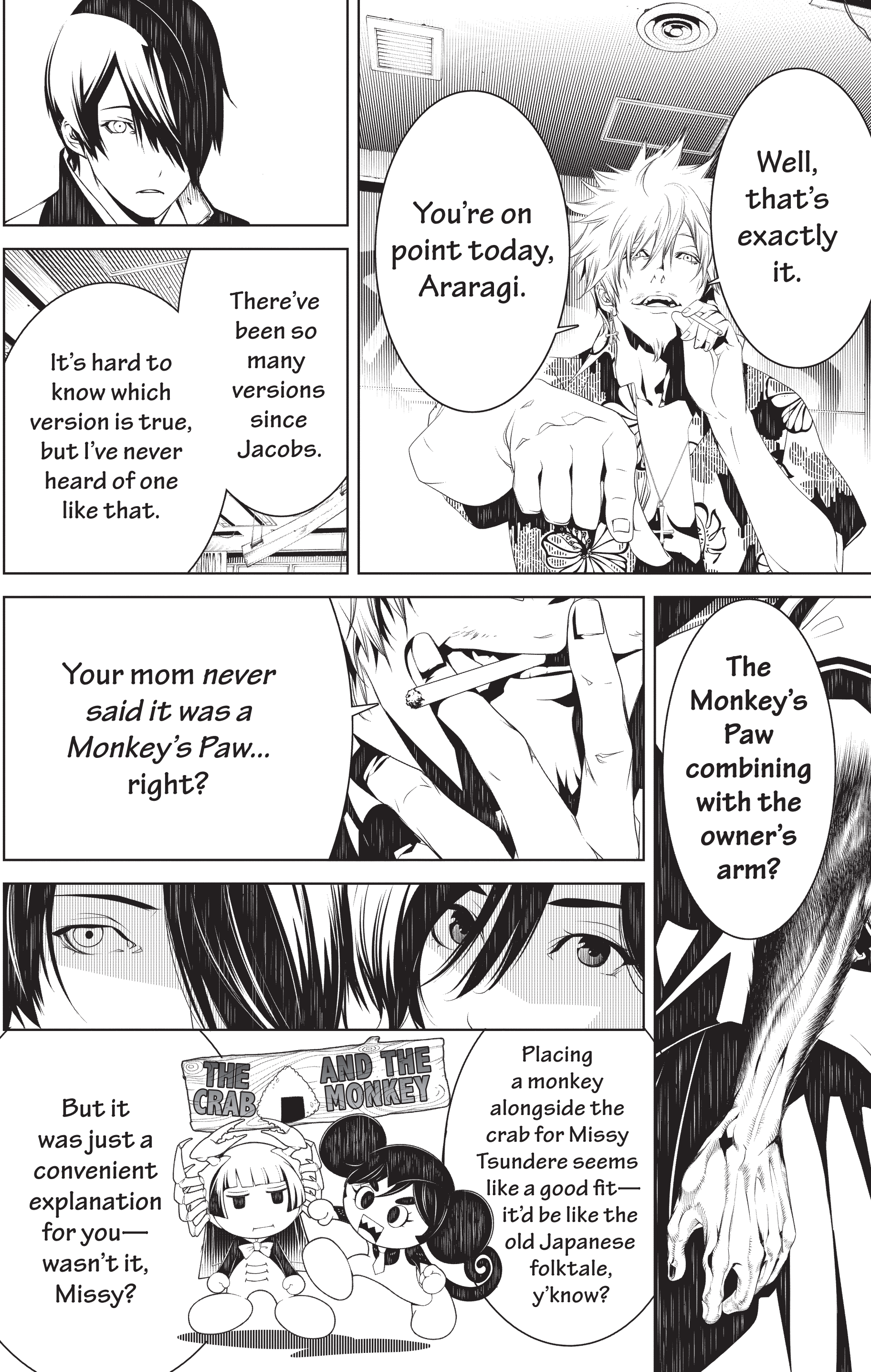
Hold on a sec, Oshino!
I can easily imagine you starting on a long monologue here, but does the Monkey's Paw have anything to do with this?!
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
The Monkey's Paw is a right hand.
That left hand is something else.
Rainy Devil
It's a Rainy Devil.

A RAINY
DEVIL ...?!
Devil



Faust is based on a real person, y'know.
WHAT? REALLY?!
...
Doesn't know what to be surprised about.
Johann Faust. It's said he lived during the Renaissance period.
There are, of course, different theories about him... but stories about this person ended up turning into folklore.
He was a wandering physician or magician who
actually sold his soul to the devil Mephisto-pheles.
And in exchange for all kinds of knowledge and experiences, he promised the devil to act as an enemy of Christians.

For twenty-four years he lives according to those "Faustian impulses" …
And the moment the contract expires, he meets a tragic end.
Look it up yourself. You can find the details in *Doctor Faustus*.
Huh… I didn't know…
Okay, still, Oshino …
Look… I don't mind that you're as frus-tratingly longwinded as ever…
But so what? It's not as if you're saying this Rainy whatever is the arm of Mephistopheles, right?
It's not like you're saying it's not actually a Monkey's Paw, but the hand of the devil or something—



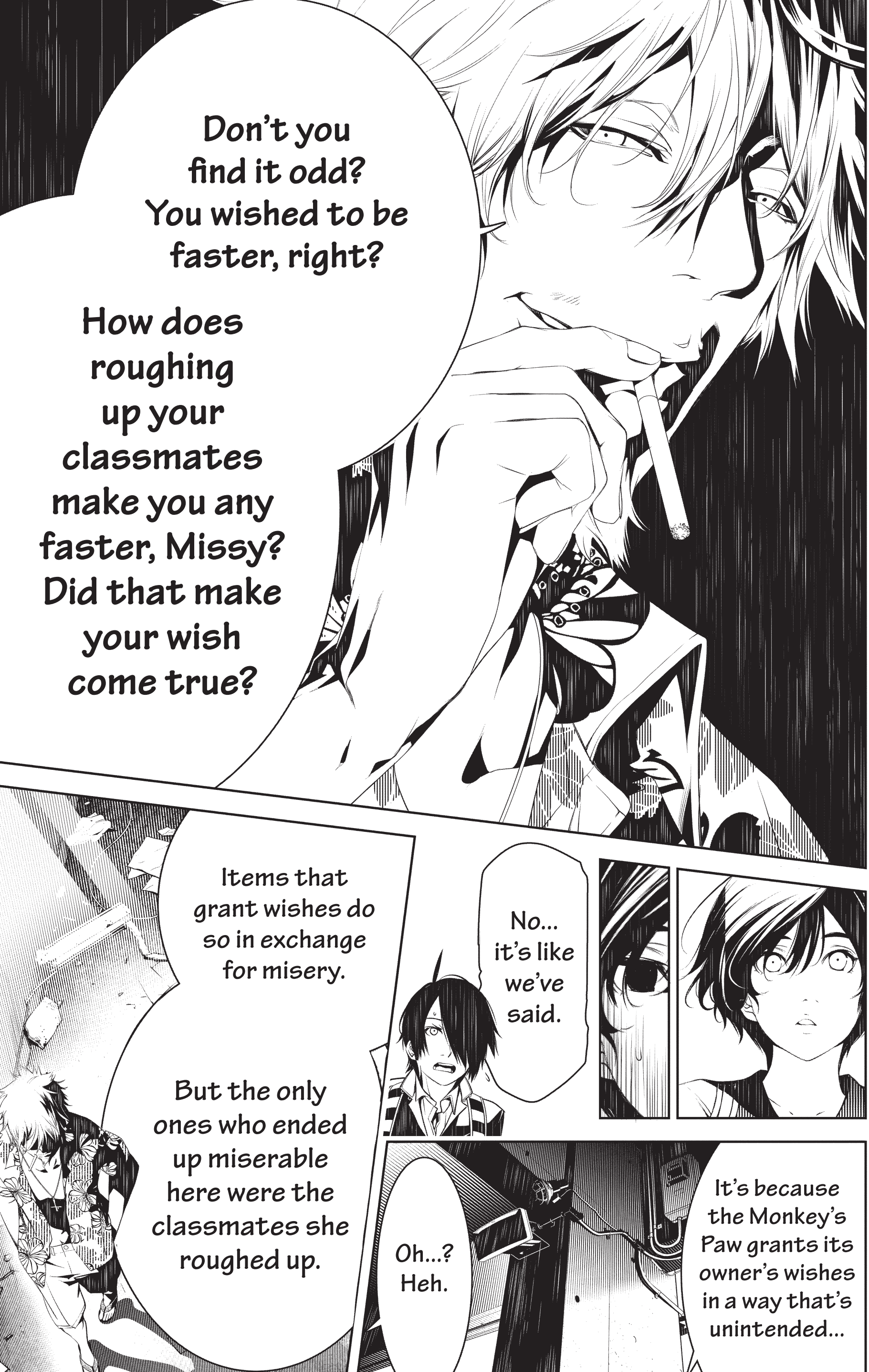
Well, that's exactly it.
You're on point today, Araragi.
There've been so many versions since Jacobs.
It's hard to know which version is true, but I've never heard of one like that.
The Monkey's Paw combining with the owner's arm?
Your mom never said it was a Monkey's Paw... right?
Placing a monkey alongside the crab for Missy Tsundere seems like a good fit—it'd be like the old Japanese folktale, y'know?
THE CRAB AND THE MONKEY
But it was just a convenient explanation for you—wasn't it, Missy?

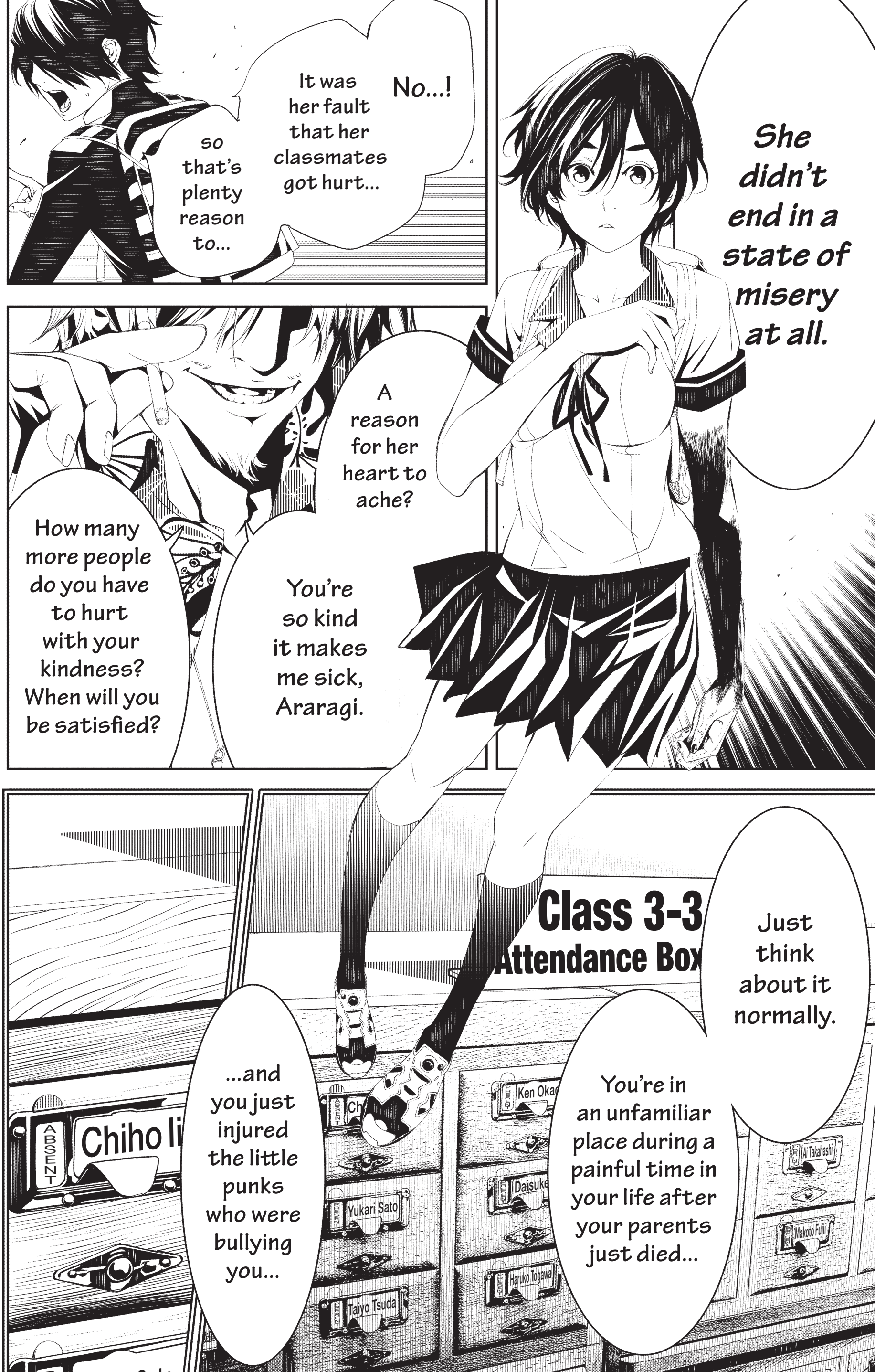
No ...
Why would I care about some kind of convenient play on words...?
Heh... That's not what I mean.
SKRATCH
SKRATCH
ボリ
ボリ
Blaming it on the Monkey's Paw—deciding that to be the case—was convenient to you.
Or maybe I should say it felt good.
"They say
it grants its owner's wishes...
...but it's never in the way
its owner intends"
...you said that, right?
Heh.

Anyway, there are two easy solutions to this situation.
That's what Oshino said.
SNIP
SNIP
The first is to take that left arm...
Cut here
SNIP
...that's turned into an aberration, and lop it off.
names and notes regarding each part
HEAD
LEFT ARM
SCHWIP
be careful not to lose any small parts
use force when pulling off
Cut here
Huh?!
No!
Hold on, wait a second. Can you cut off just the part that belongs to this monkey—er, devil...?

Will her old arm grow back...?
What? It's not a lizard's tail, Araragi.
It's not that conve-nient.
I'm saying that a single arm is a small price to pay to solve our problem.
DON'T BE SO NON-CHALANT ABOUT THIS! THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY!!
A SMALL PRICE?! IT'S NOTHING BUT A CHEAP SOLUTION WITH A NASTY RESULT!!
A-Ah... I really don't think I could ...
It'd be too much trouble, you know ...?
You tried to kill another human being, all right?
I'd say it's a fair price for you to pay, Missy.

No...! That human being...that's me you're talking about, right?
She didn't wish for that, Oshino.
She only wanted to be by Senjogahara's side—
Only to be by her side, eh?
Heh.
Just one question, Missy...
What happened to that left hand during your "first wish"?
Huh?
Back then—did your left hand turn into that monster's as well?
...
No...
It should have. You just didn't notice, that's all.
It's because your wish was granted that very night.


Don't you find it odd? You wished to be faster, right?
How does roughing up your classmates make you any faster, Missy? Did that make your wish come true?
No... it's like we've said.
Items that grant wishes do so in exchange for misery.
But the only ones who ended up miserable here were the classmates she roughed up.
It's because the Monkey's Paw grants its owner's wishes in a way that's unintended...
Oh...? Heh.


She didn't end in a state of misery at all.
No...!
It was her fault that her classmates got hurt...
so that's plenty reason to...
A reason for her heart to ache?
You're so kind it makes me sick, Araragi.
How many more people do you have to hurt with your kindness? When will you be satisfied?
Class 3-3 Attendance Box
Just think about it normally.
You're in an unfamiliar place during a painful time in your life after your parents just died...
...and you just injured the little punks who were bullying you...
ABSENT
Yukari Sato
Taiyo Tsuda
Haruko Togawa
Ai Takahashi
Makoto Fujii

Isn't the human response to that a quick and tidy...
"Serves them right"?
No...
I...!
I...
Hey.
...
Kan-baru ?!

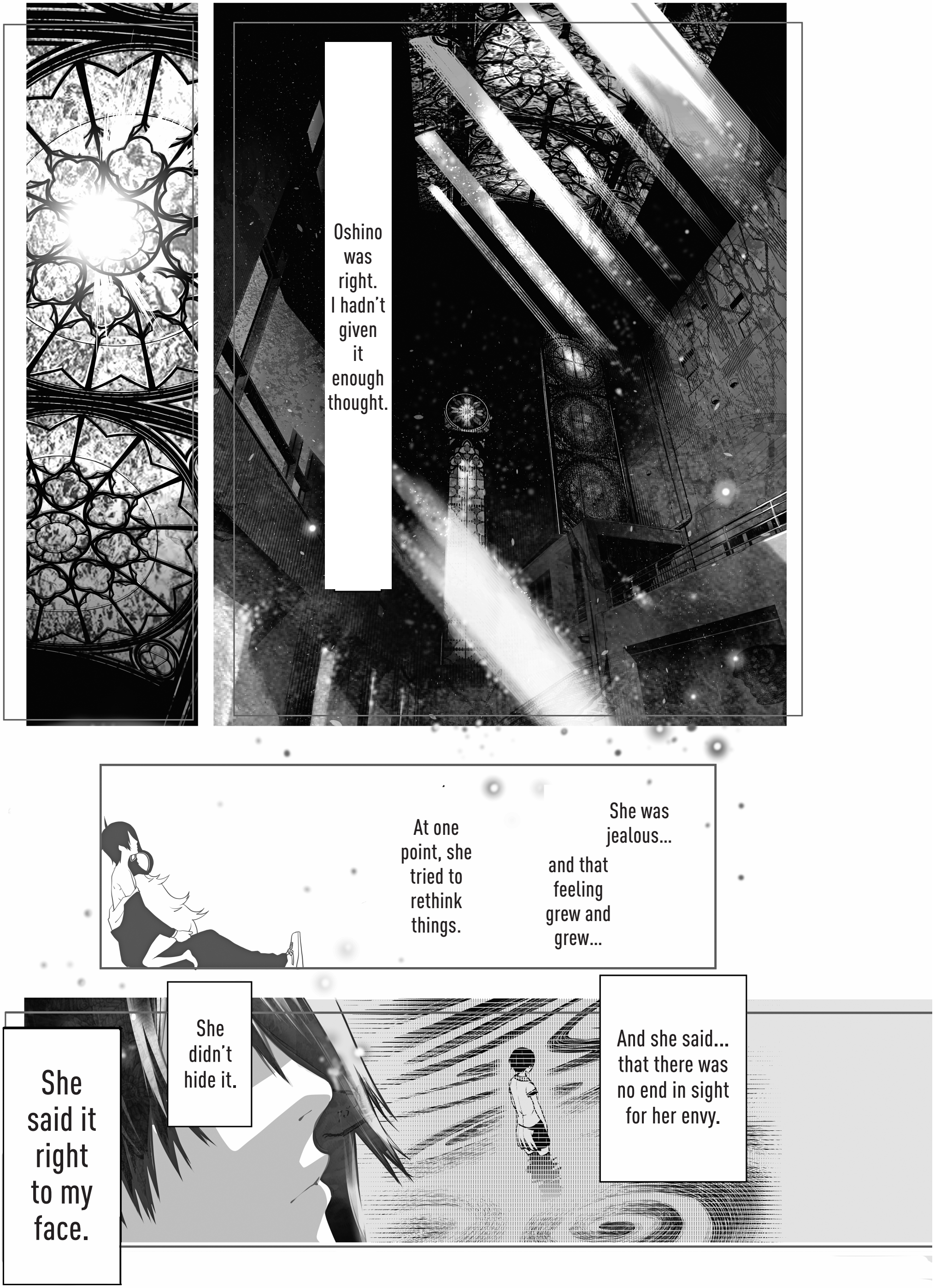
I'm sure it wasn't a conscious decision.
On the *surface*, her wish must have been to become faster.
But not on the flip side.
Behind that wish was the unconscious desire to get back at her classmates—to beat them all up.
The left hand saw through that
and *that wish* was granted.
It agrees to grant three wishes in exchange for a soul.
That's what you'd expect.
Since it's a devil.

The left hand possessed you, acquired a body,
and granted your "wish"—
Before
Then, when it detached from you...
...it did so with a bit of your soul in an amount equal to that of your wish, and grew into an arm.
After
W...
Wait...!
I get the logic behind what you're saying,
but that would mean...
What did I just tell you, Araragi? You're on point today. There's no need to get tied up into knots.
You actually arrived at the right answer for once.

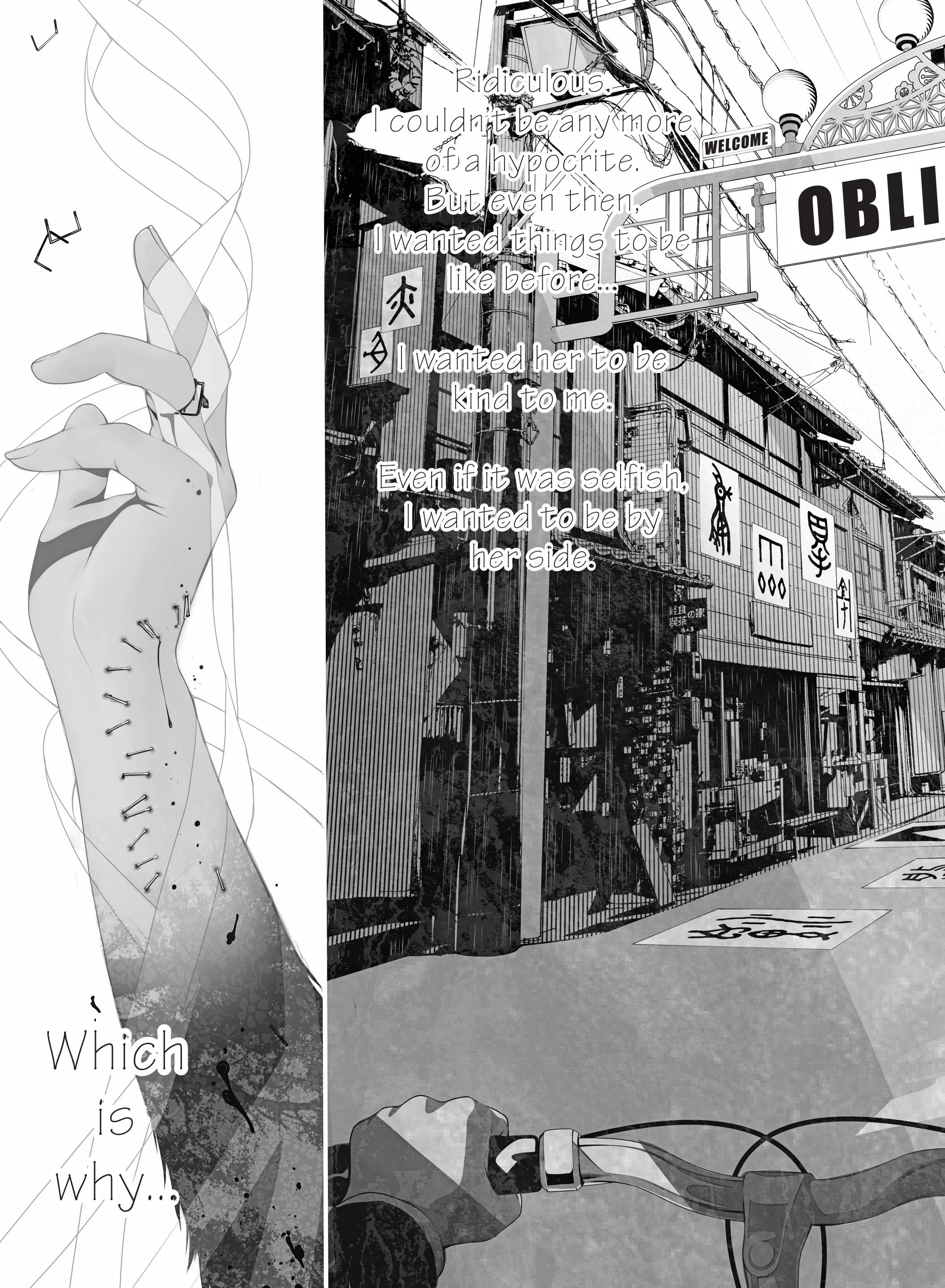
You stole away her idol for yourself.
Feeling so much envy that she'd want to kill you—
and asking a devil to get rid of you is hardly bizarre.
"Only to be by her side"...? You're such a chump to believe your assailant's excuses, Araragi.
There's no way Missy's own intentions were absent from this. The intentions were all hers.

What left hand has intentions?
SKRATCH
Oh... so, about solving this situation.
There's still one other method to consider,
Ara-ragi.

If Missy over here slaughters you,
you see.


Oshino was right. I hadn't given it enough thought.
She was jealous...
and that feeling grew and grew...
At one point, she tried to rethink things.
And she said... that there was no end in sight for her envy.
She didn't hide it.
She said it right to my face.

QUE STREET
I was jealous of you and disappointed in her— I was disgusted by my own self.
Soothing her soul? Stepping away? It was a lie, all of it.
It was all my ego. It meant I didn't care as long as I was happy.
Was I hoping she'd praise me or something?
BAKEMONOGATARI


Ridiculous.
I couldn't be any more of a hypocrite.
But even then,
I wanted things to be like before...
I wanted her to be kind to me.
Even if it was selfish,
I wanted to be by her side.
WELCOME
OBLI
Which is why...

BAKE

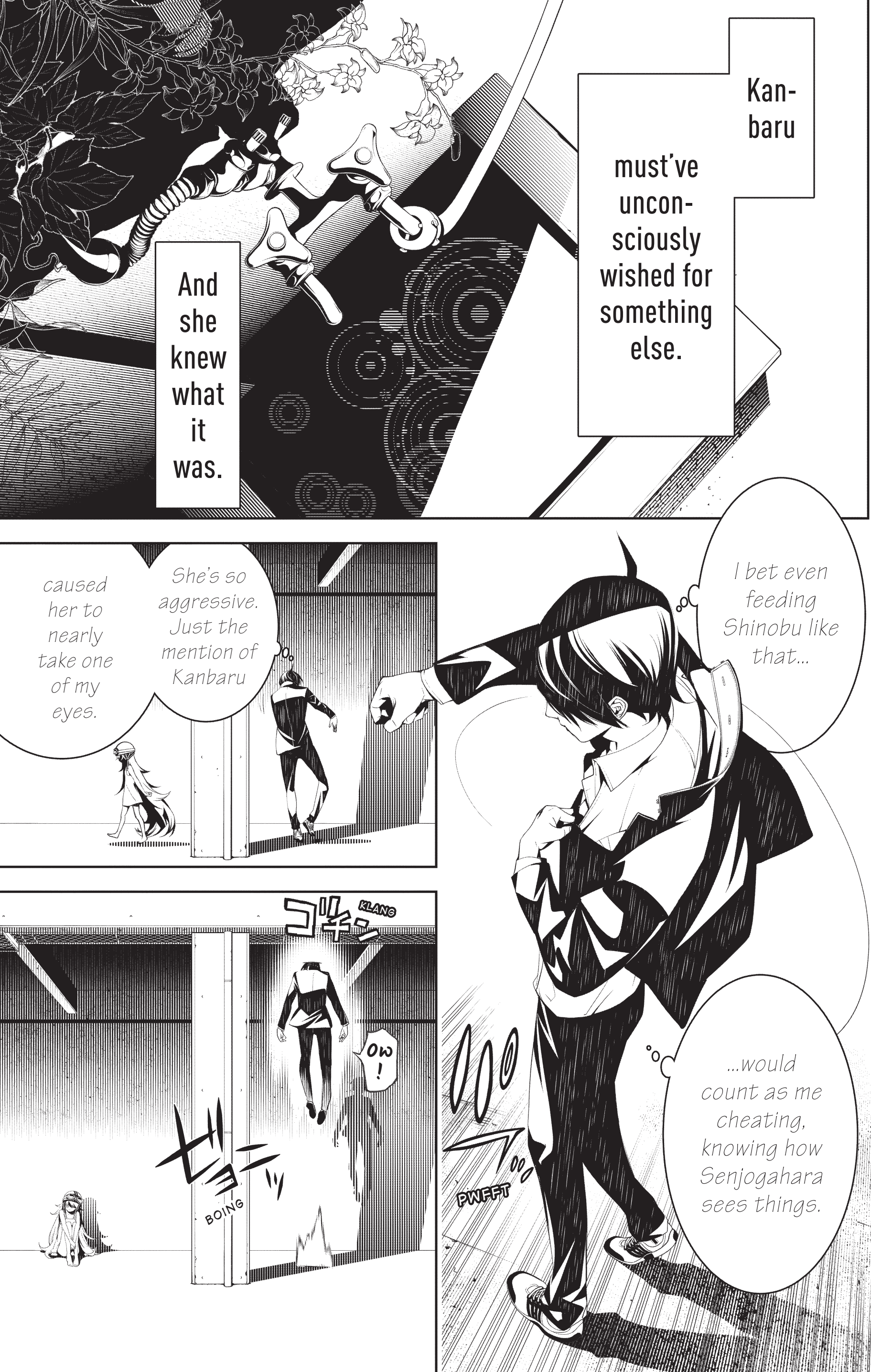
MONO

GATARI

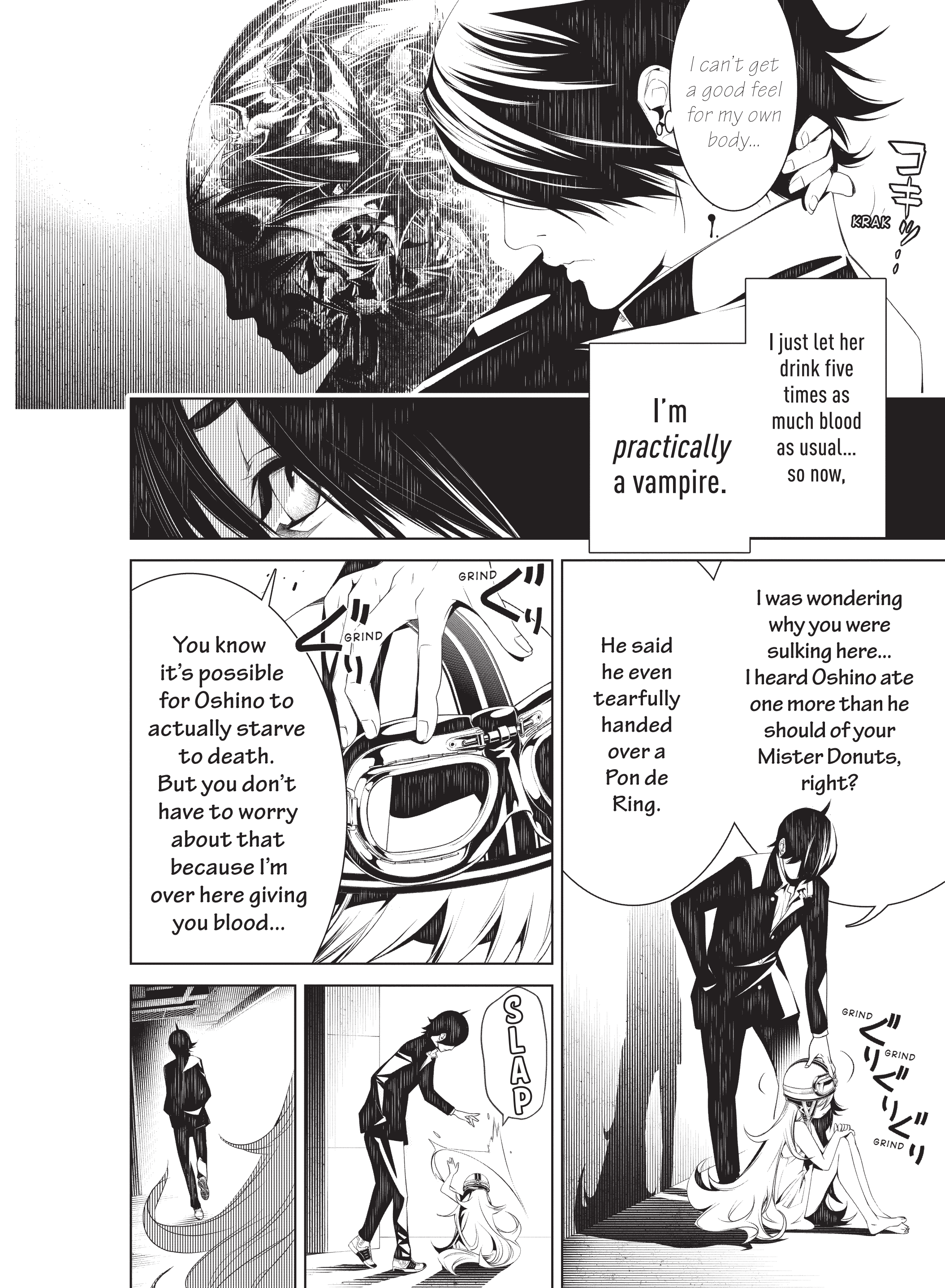
5

Mmh
...
That ought to do it.
PAT
PAT
...
SHLURP
SHLURP
SHLURP
GRRT
GRRT
SHLURP
SHLURP
PWOOP

SHLIP
If Kanbaru's wish to that left hand was only to be by Senjogahara's side...
...the fact that she was worried about my safety—
her assumption that I'd be in danger...
None of it makes sense.
It's not like she'd know how the left hand would grant her wish.



Kanbaru must've unconsciously wished for something else.
And she knew what it was.
I bet even feeding Shinobu like that...
...would count as me cheating, knowing how Senjogahara sees things.
PWFFT
She's so aggressive. Just the mention of Kanbaru
caused her to nearly take one of my eyes.
KLANG
OW!
BOING



I can't get a good feel for my own body...
コキッ
KRAK
I just let her drink five times as much blood as usual... so now,
I'm *practically* a vampire.
I was wondering why you were sulking here... I heard Oshino ate one more than he should of your Mister Donuts, right?
He said he even tearfully handed over a Pon de Ring.
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
ぐりぐりぐり
You know it's possible for Oshino to actually starve to death. But you don't have to worry about that because I'm over here giving you blood...
GRIND
GRIND
SLAP

Hey,
I've been waiting, Araragi.
You said to let her drink right to her limit, but I had trouble figuring out what that is...
Don't worry.
It's nothing to be sensitive about.
Her existence is bound by my name.
Letting her drink a little extra blood isn't going to give her back her true power as a demon.

As we waited for the sun to set and the moon to appear,
Oshino and I killed time by talking.
...Mm.
I guess I should go.
Kanbaru's probably waiting for me somewhere in this building.
Waiting...
to kill me.
Araragi... can I ask you just one question?
Why are you helping Missy?
Medicine

There wasn't even a need for you to hear her out...let alone come running over to me.
...It's part of being alive.
There's always going to be someone you hate.
If Kanbaru feels that way because she pined for Senjogahara...
If that is the reason...
Well,
then I can forgive her.

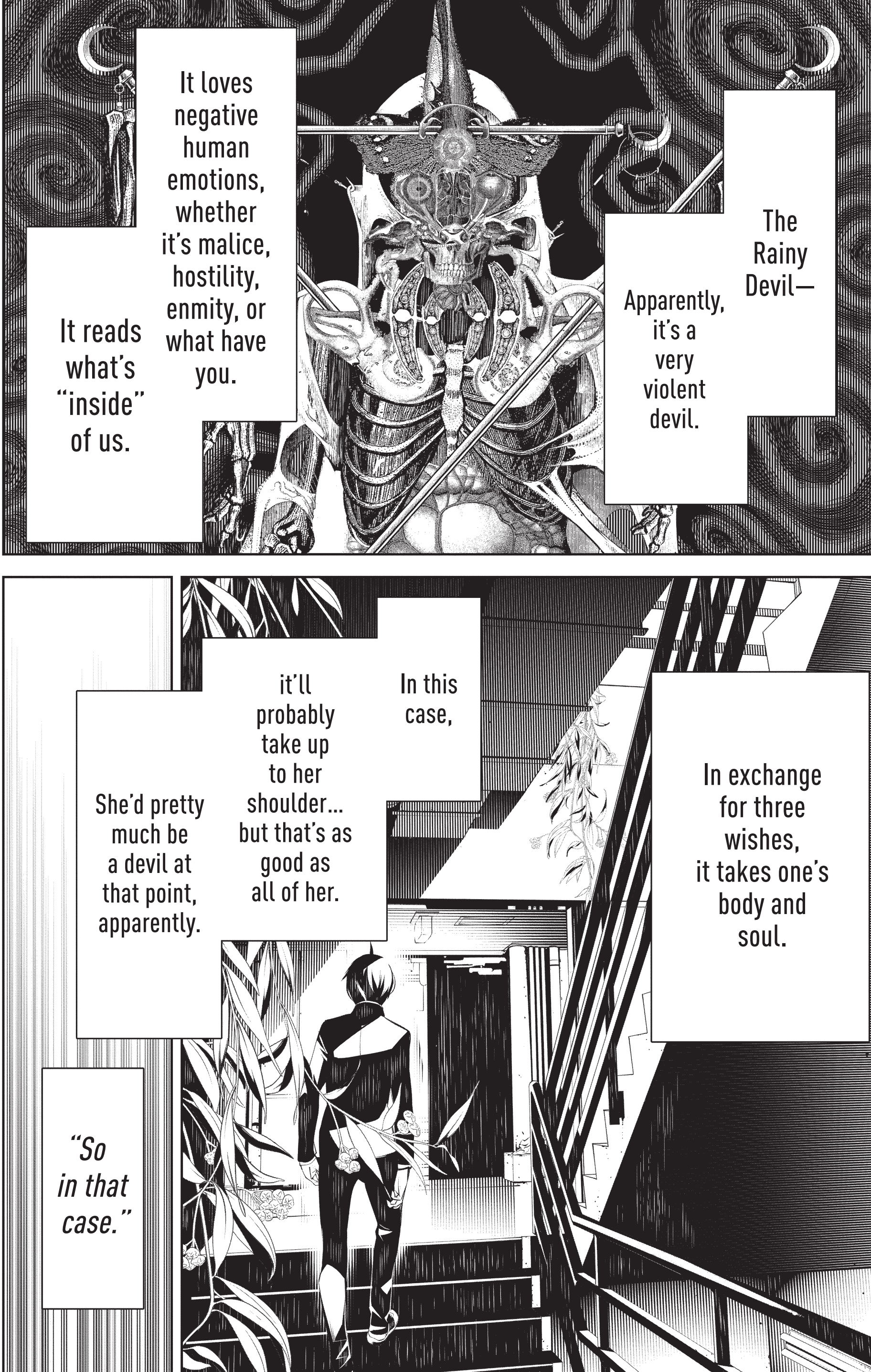
Oh. Well, if that's what you've decided, Araragi, then sure.
In that case, get in there and help Missy out.
You know ...
I thought you'd be angrier.
Stop acting so damn conceit-ed.
Like the time with Mayoi Hachikuji—
The time with that snail aberration.
Ya damn brat.
...What am I always telling you? I'm a neutral party.
You were the one doing harm back then, Araragi—
but it's different this time, is all.

Araragi, listen up.
Right now, you should think of this building
as a *cage* meant to trap you and Missy.
You saw another one of those before you came here, right?
One of these.
The "barrier" here makes it so no human on the outside will care about what happens inside.
—Or so I'm told.
They'll be able to hear it and see it—*but if they don't care, it might as well have never happened*.
Have fun butchering each other in there.
Once you're done, you can leave.
I'm going to sleep.

...
Sorry for the hassle.

Don't mention it.

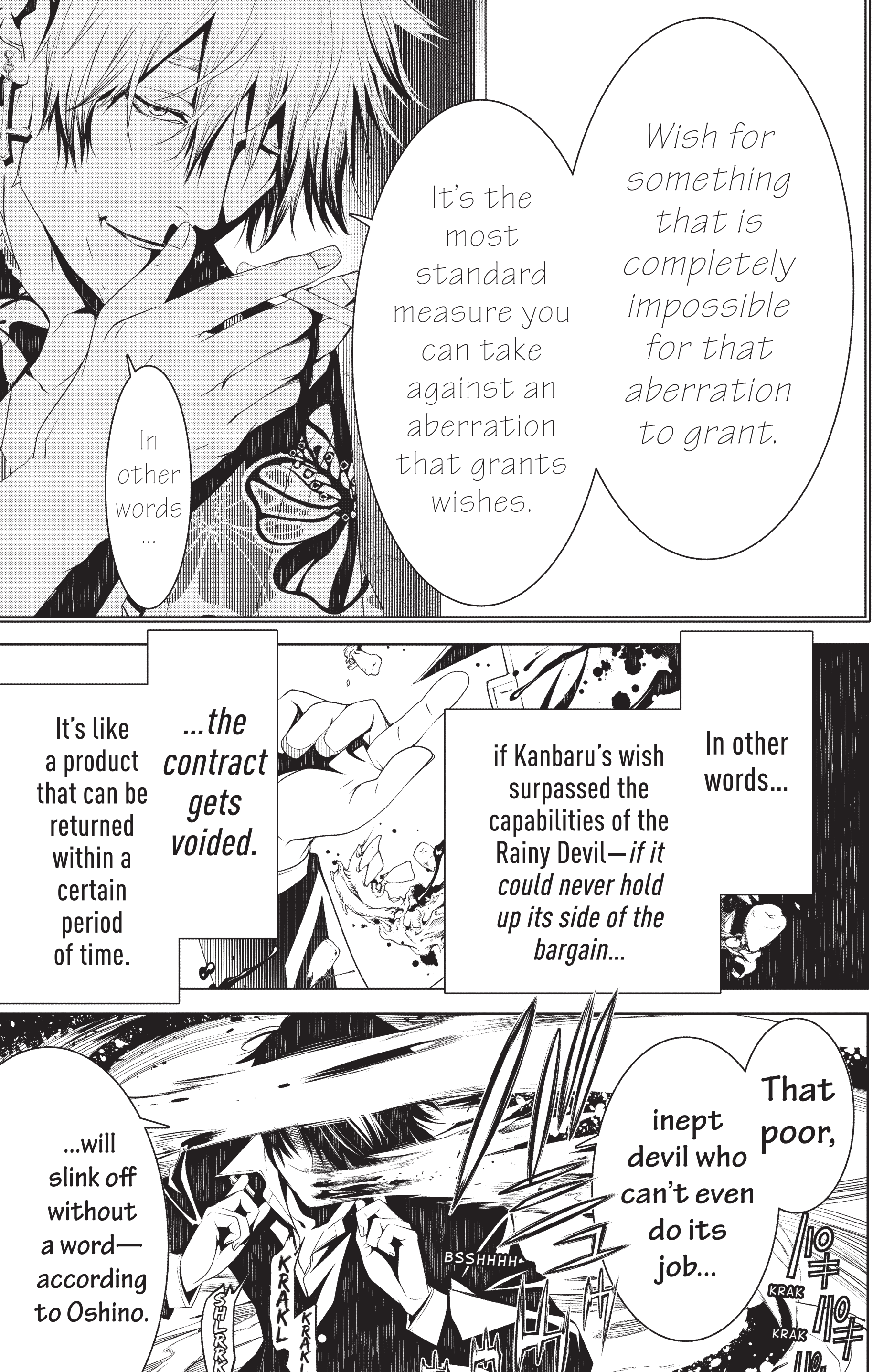
I guess you could say that this is a case of being able to argue your way out of anything.
Two hours earlier.
That is what Oshino had told us.
He had explained that there were two *easy* solutions.
AAGH
SNIP
ちょきん
1. Cut off Kanbaru's arm.
2. Have Kanbaru kill me.
AAGH
SNIP
ちょきん
But ...
If we don't go with something easy,
that will give us a third.



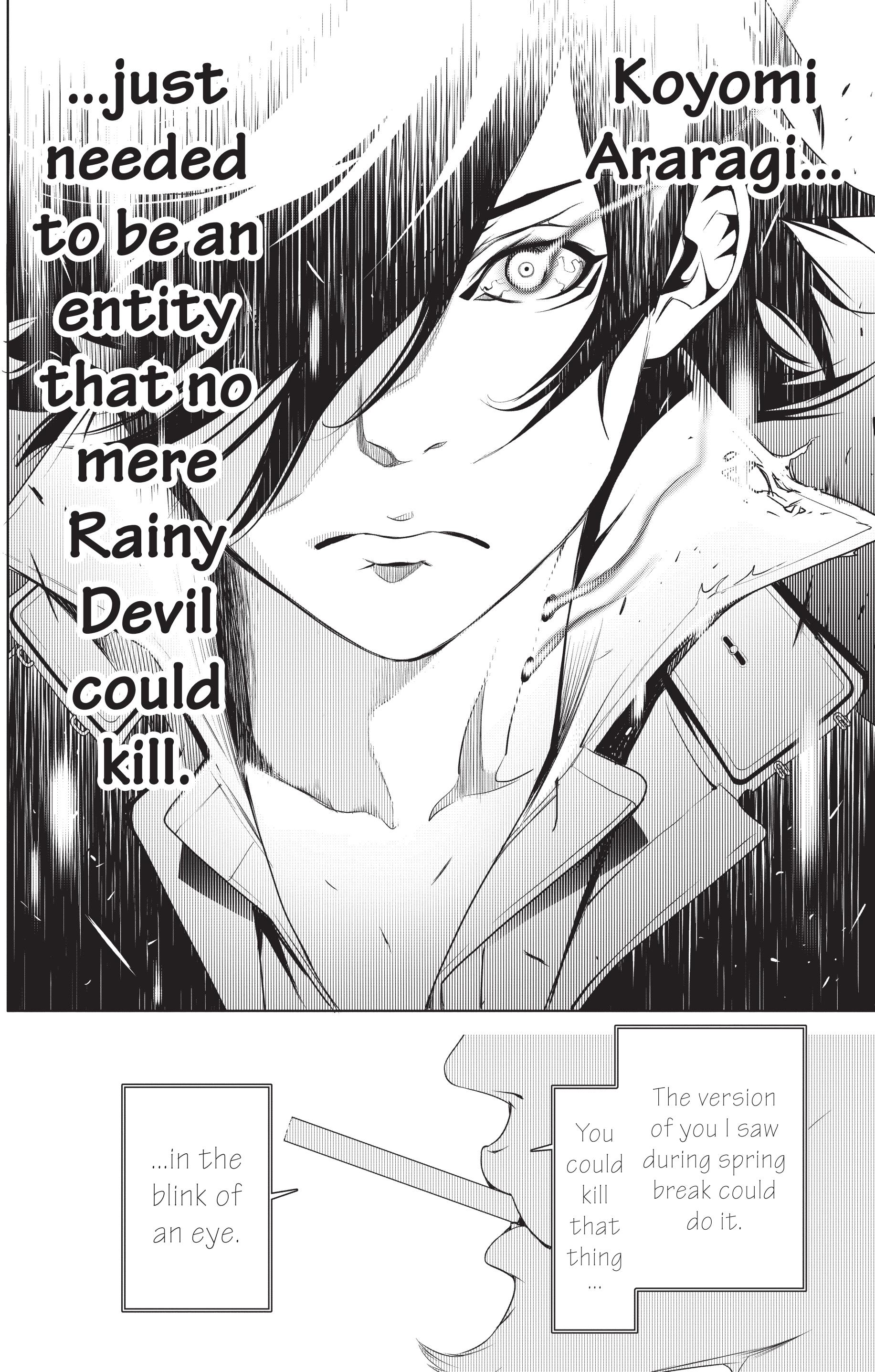
The Rainy Devil—
Apparently, it's a very violent devil.
It loves negative human emotions, whether it's malice, hostility, enmity, or what have you.
It reads what's "inside" of us.
In exchange for three wishes, it takes one's body and soul.
In this case,
it'll probably take up to her shoulder... but that's as good as all of her.
She'd pretty much be a devil at that point, apparently.
"So in that case."

Just make it so the wish can't come true, that's all.
The Rainy Devil may be a devil, but it's not like Mephisto-pheles.
It's not some sort of supreme being.
It's a low-level fiend.
A creature who didn't even make it on the rankings.

KRAK
BRRIP
PSSHT



Wish for something that is completely impossible for that aberration to grant.
It's the most standard measure you can take against an aberration that grants wishes.
In other words ...
In other words...
if Kanbaru's wish surpassed the capabilities of the Rainy Devil—*if it could never hold up its side of the bargain...*
...the contract gets voided.
It's like a product that can be returned within a certain period of time.
That poor, inept devil who can't even do its job...
...will slink off without a word—according to Oshino.
BSSHHHH
KRAK
KRAK
KRAKL
KRAKL
SHLRRK


Koyomi Araragi...
...just needed to be an entity that no mere Rainy Devil could kill.
The version of you I saw during spring break could do it.
You could kill that thing...
...in the blink of an eye.

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

語 *gatari*

SURUGAmonkey

5

化 bake

物 mono

SURUGAmonkey

5

語 gatari

Hey.
...
All right.
Before we get started, let's review.
HOOH
How to perform an exorcism.

ガチャ
SPLAT
Whoa!
According to Oshino, an authentic exorcism
is a major affair that takes lots of time and effort.
SHWOOP
Even if I gave Shinobu as much blood as possible, my vampire powers still have their limits.

BOOM
FSSHT!
So soft!
Sorry, Kanbaru.
SQUISH
When Oshino said that the version of me from spring break could defeat the Rainy Devil in the blink of an eye,
he was talking about me when I fought as a full-blown vampire. At most, I only have a tenth as much strength now—and even saying that is being overconfident, apparently.
KA-KRSH
But,
you're only facing the *left hand* of that Rainy Devil.

TWIRL
BWOOSH
BWOOSH
THK
KLONG
THK
THK

And it's got the dead weight of an entire person to boot.
SKURRY
SKURRY
SKURRY
He said the Rainy Devil is a low-level fiend.
A devil who wouldn't even make it on the rankings—something like a familiar.
I'd have no chance against the whole thing,
but under "these conditions," I had what it took—no, way more than what it took—*far beyond* what it took to win, Oshino declared.
SKURRY
SKURRY
SKURRY

"Gaen"—apparently, that was Missy's mother's maiden name.
That seems to be the issue here.
A mummified devil is actually quite a feat.
SWOOSH
Personally, I'm curious about the "remaining parts"... We're lucky it's just the left hand.

THOKK
KRAK
KLONG
SNAP
BOOM
Because it was just a left hand,
Kanbaru was able to take this devil...
...and stop it from fulfilling her unconscious wish—her "true wish" of wanting to eliminate me—or so I'm told.

Well, the skills test is coming up
and that's giving me a head-ache.
In fact, I'm going to a study session today.
A study session?
You're talking about my senior Senjogahara. RIGHT?
Well, I'll be off, my senior Araragi.
May fortune smile on you!
But,
Kanbaru found out.
She knew that the rumor of Senjogahara and I dating—
the rumor she didn't want to believe—was, in fact, true.

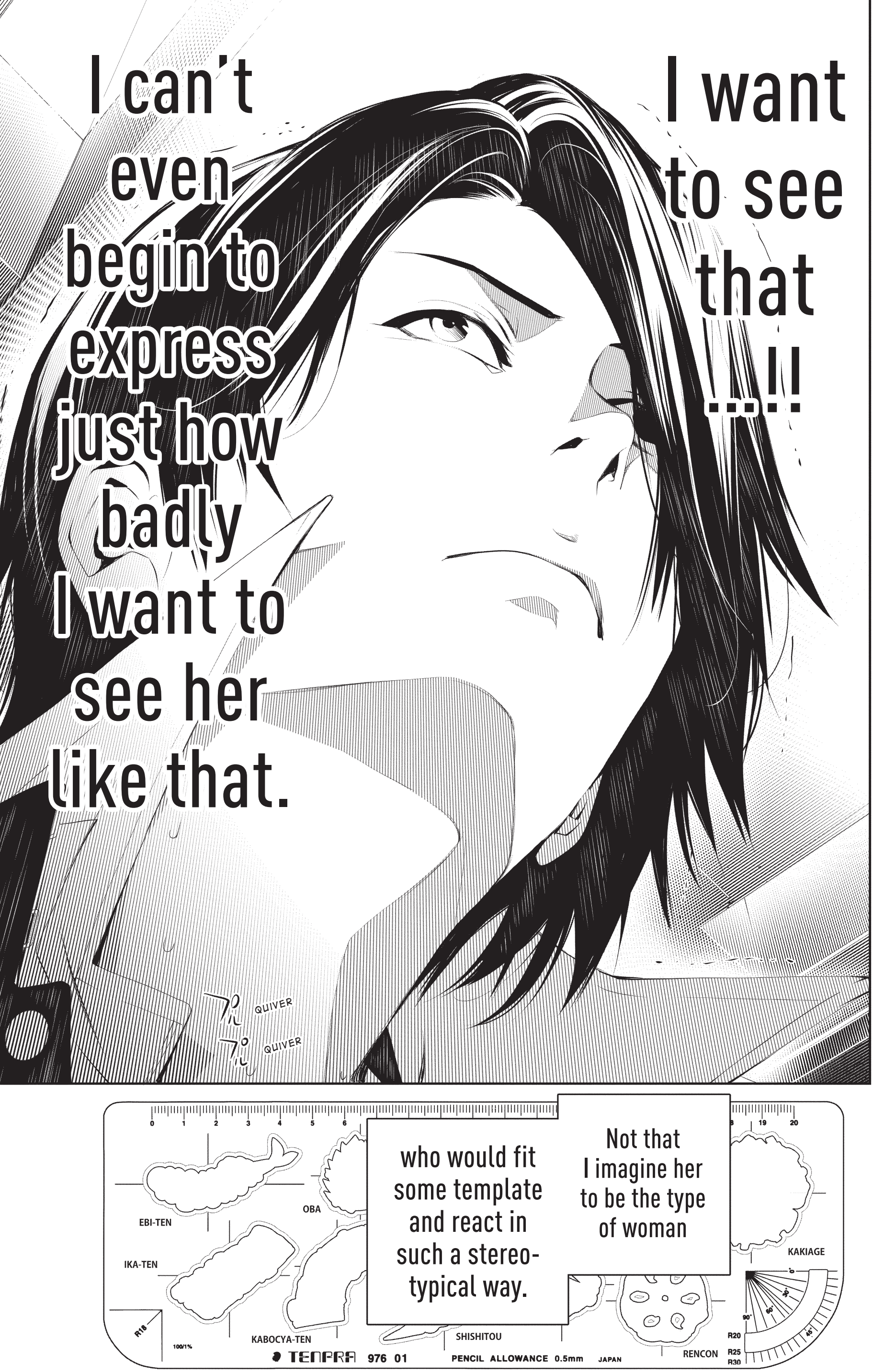
The Monkey's Paw grants wishes in ways "its owner doesn't intend."
Those words must have been crucial to Kanbaru.
It was a convenient excuse for her fragile psyche. She could then say she didn't *mean* to attack me.
So, the devil found an opening and wormed its way into her heart.
Oshino didn't put it that way, of course. He thoroughly despised that kind of spoiled thinking.
Ara-ragi.

I bet you're always hearing about how much of a good, kind person you are.
And not just from me.
It's the kind of thing you say to someone who doesn't have a personality. Who wants to hear that again and again?

KRAK
KRAK
CRUMBLE
KRAK
FSSSHHH
DRIP
DRIP
You've got it wrong,
Oshino.
That's right. This isn't kindness.
It's more like...an underhanded calculation.
A scheming persistence.

Solving the issue of Kanbaru's aberration—
In the end,
I would be saving my own life, first and foremost.
Kanbaru would of course be saved, too.
This might sound like I'm taking advantage of her gratitude...
...but it would also mean that Kanbaru has to listen to my wish.
That was her wish too, after all.
FWISH
FWISH
I wanted her to figure out a way to make up with Senjogahara.
If they went back to the way they were when people still called them the Valhalla Duo, that would warm the heart of the more tundra-than-tsundere Senjogahara. And then...

D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT GRATEFUL TO YOU OR ANYTHING!
I JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE YOU DINNER, SINCE YOU DID GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO STICK YOUR NOSE IN MY BUSINESS, IS ALL.
Smelt


I want to see that ...!!
I can't even begin to express just how badly I want to see her like that.
QUIVER
QUIVER
Not that I imagine her to be the type of woman
who would fit some template and react in such a stereo-typical way.
EBI-TEN
OBA
IKA-TEN
KAKIAGE
KABOCYA-TEN
SHISHITOU
RENCON
TENPRA 976 01
PENCIL ALLOWANCE 0.5mm
JAPAN

THWOOMP
Ngh ?
Bfft !
...!
Huh ?

URK!
BLURGH
Just now...
I...
dodged that... didn't I?
NO TRESPASSING
NO TRESPASSING
NO TRESPASSING
DRIBBLE
SPLAT
SPLAT

STOMP
SPLURCH
NGWOOM
It feels like...
...she's much...
...faster than yesterday ...!!

Dammit ...!
Why? Why... can't I dodge her?!
THWOKK
BA-KRAK
Ngh ...?
Agh!

SPLATCH
AAAAA
AAAGH
!

Sneak-ers.
SKREE
ギチッ
GCHHT
THP
Not.
TWTCH
GCHHT
Rubber boots ...!!

My abilities have been enhanced in all kinds of ways, by several degrees, thanks to Shinobu.
If this "Raincoat" here was the same as yesterday, I would be able to read every one of her movements.
No, even if I couldn't read them all,
I'd be able to dodge her based on the sound that her boots made with each step. That's what should have happened!!
SGRRP
A few hours earlier.
Oh... Right... It happened when we left Kanbaru's home...!!
My senior Araragi.
Do I need to bring this raincoat with me?

Yeah, it might end up helping us out somehow.
Let's bring anything of interest and have Oshino look at it all.
SNIFF
くん
SNIFF
くん
すんすん
HUFF
HUFF
...
はっはっはっはっ
HAHAHAHA
Oh! It's just that, I might have worn this raincoat with nothing underneath!
I'm the type of person who sleeps in the buff, you know!
I need to check if I'm going to let someone else see it.
Wait, hold on!
Then what kind of smell are you checking for?!

I was so distracted by that stupid interaction
that I completely forgot about the rubber boots sitting there in the entrance...!
God, I'm such an idiot.
NO TRESPASSING
TRESPASSING
I never give up a good chance to be wrong.
But...
It's fine.
She still only attacks in one way.
Not only that, I've also *driven her* into this narrow passage to make it easier to read the trajectory of her punches ...!!
Kan-baru.

KA-POP
It's docking time.

SGWRRRK
!!
GCHHT

GSSHT
KA-KRAK
A hold that only I can pull off...
...thanks to my vampiric healing abilities.
That should do it.
Now she's... immobile.
Sorry, Kan-baru.

THOOMP
THOOMP
THOOMP
BOOM

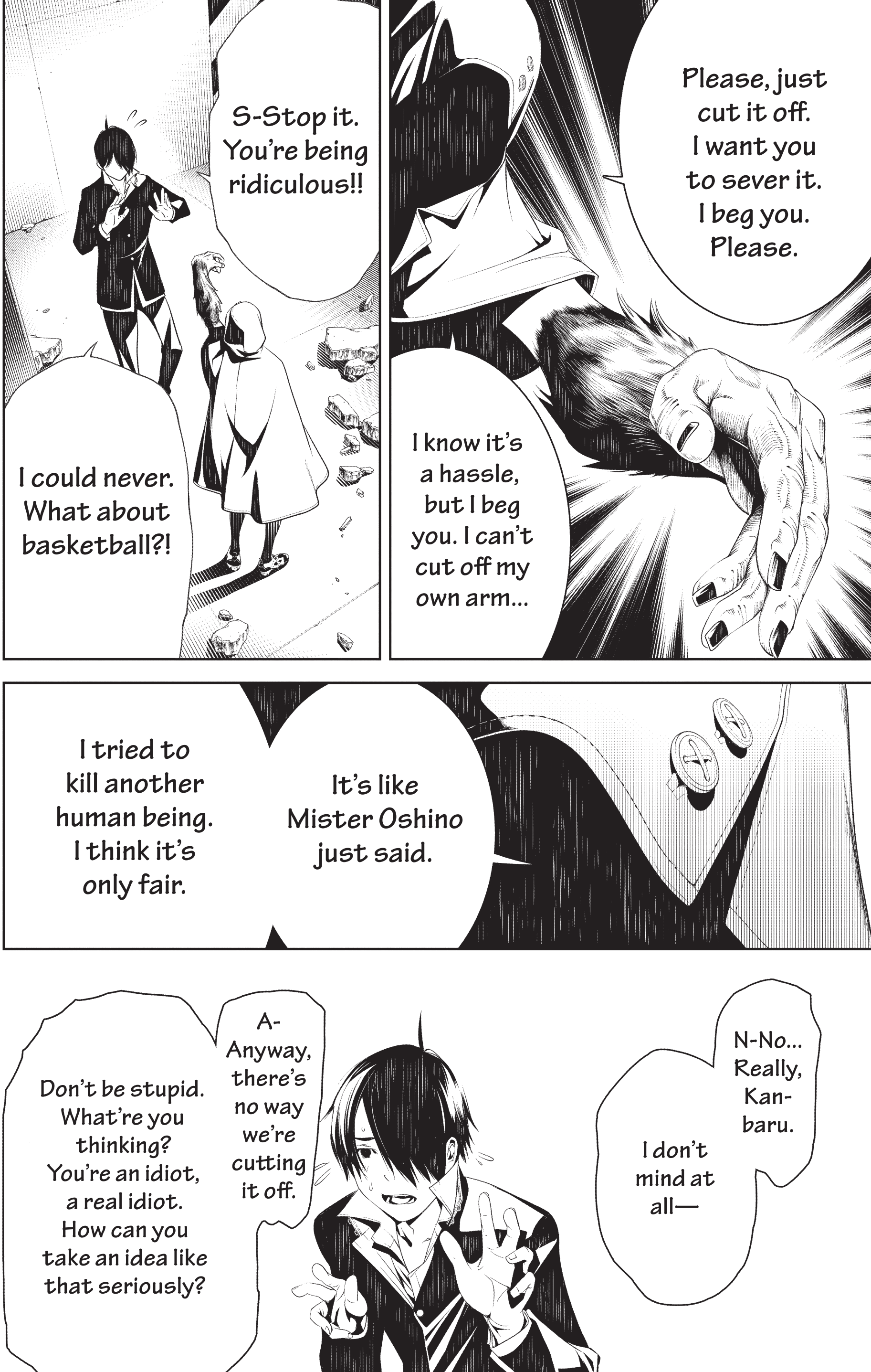
THWAK
THWAK
I can't just win.
My mission is to do so overwhelmingly.
GSST
THOOM
KRAK
I need the devil to cry uncle and scrap the contract.
That said, kicking Kanbaru with everything I have now is going to split her in two.
THWAK
Dammit...! It's hard to know how much to put into these... Do I still need to keep going?
THWAK
Hurry up and leave, Rainy Devil!!
THWAK
This is practically torture, it might as well be Suruga-toi! I don't enjoy doing this...!!
THWAK
THWAK

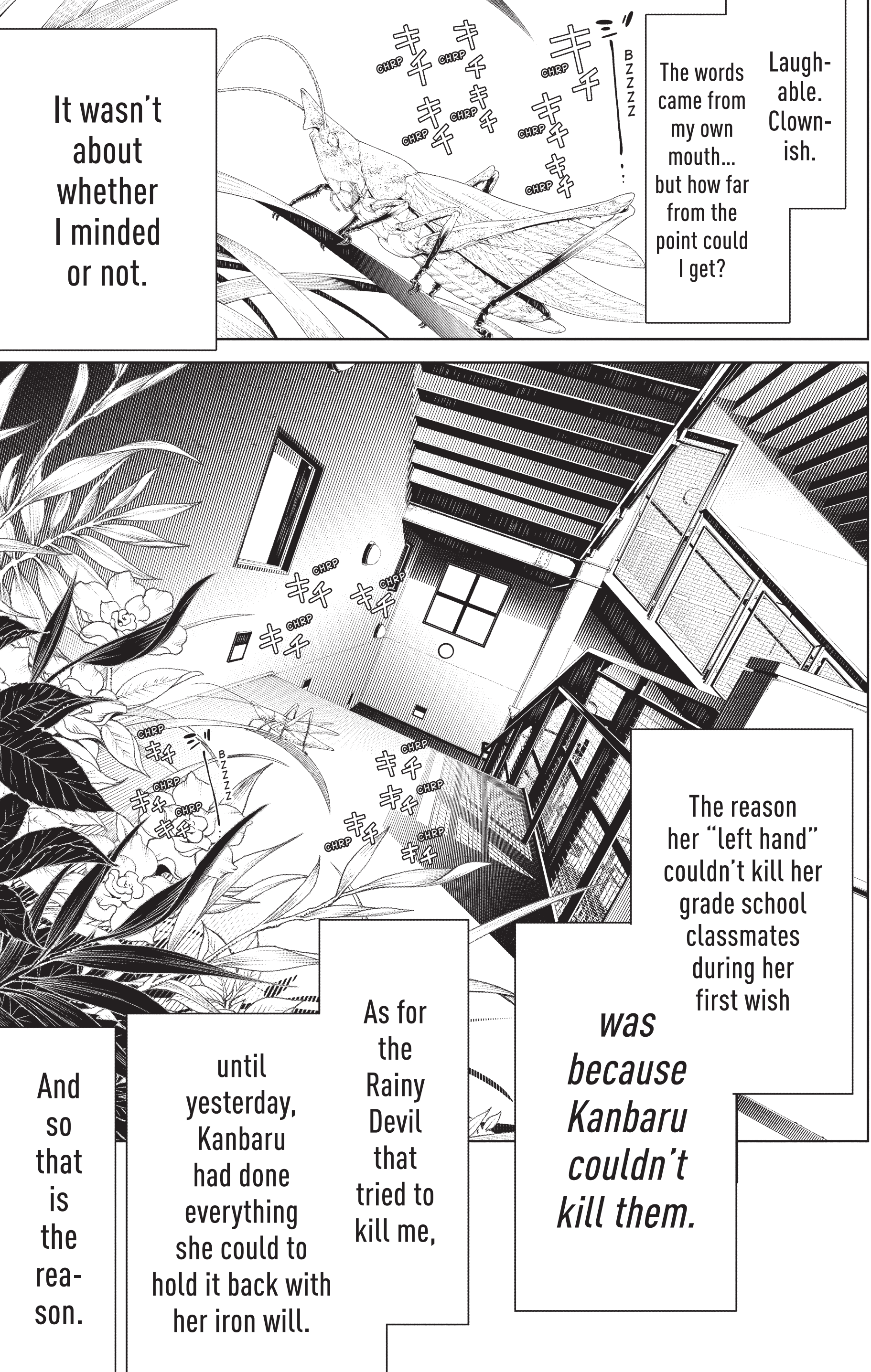
PA-KREEEEEEE
UGH ...?!
... Huh ...? That...
Hold on... wait... that was ...!!
SLUMP
THOOMP

BCCHT
It wasn't her left arm—it was her leg.
...
Is that... what's going on here,
Kan-baru?
DRIP DRIP

Is Kanbaru not in a trance—the way she was yesterday?
No, wait...
...were her attacks now and even yesterday... all of her own will...?!
...
...?!

I don't need this arm.


Please, just cut it off. I want you to sever it. I beg you. Please.
I know it's a hassle, but I beg you. I can't cut off my own arm...
S-Stop it. You're being ridiculous!!
I could never. What about basketball?!
It's like Mister Oshino just said.
I tried to kill another human being. I think it's only fair.
N-No... Really, Kan-baru.
I don't mind at all—
A- Anyway, there's no way we're cutting it off.
Don't be stupid. What're you thinking? You're an idiot, a real idiot. How can you take an idea like that seriously?

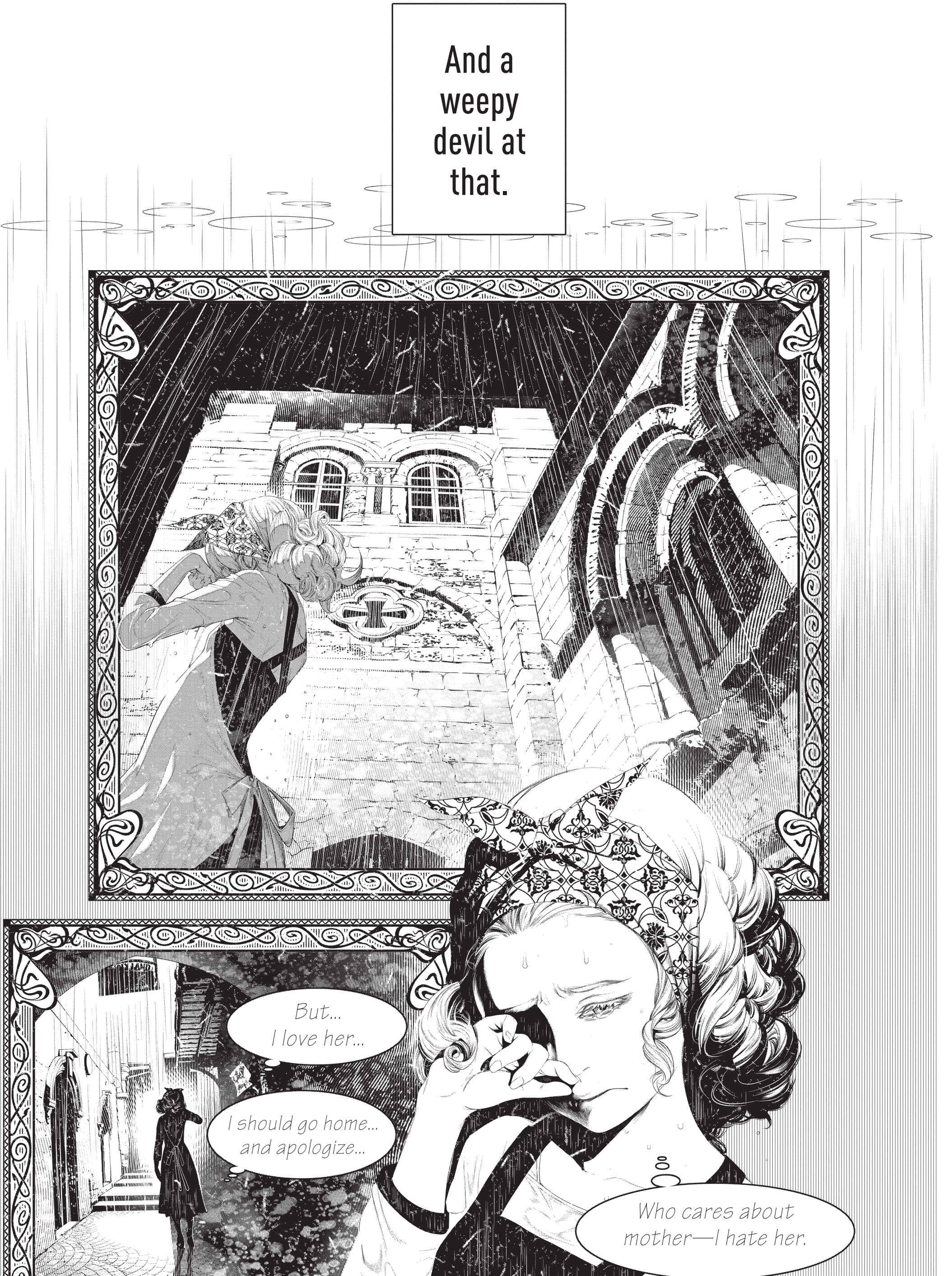


Laughable. Clownish.
The words came from my own mouth... but how far from the point could I get?
BZZZZ
キチ CHRP
It wasn't about whether I minded or not.
The reason her "left hand" couldn't kill her grade school classmates during her first wish
was because Kanbaru couldn't kill them.
As for the Rainy Devil that tried to kill me,
until yesterday, Kanbaru had done everything she could to hold it back with her iron will.
And so that is the reason.

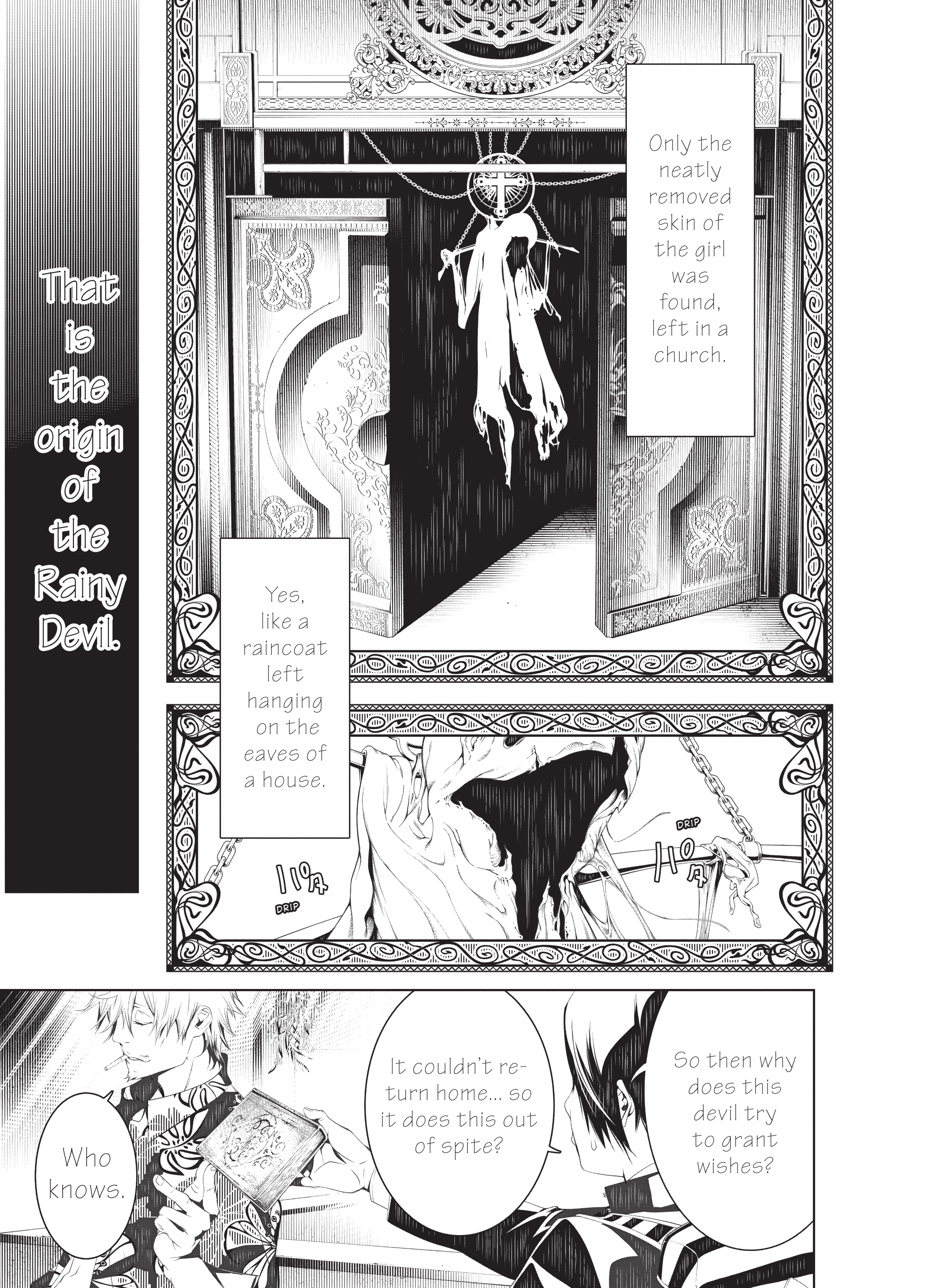
IT'S WHY SURUGA KANBARU
CAN'T FORGIVE HERSELF.
Ah... You're right. That's not something to impose on someone else.
I'll think of a way on my own. I'm sure it can be done with the help of a car or a train.
A TRAIN ?!
You're going to make me cry now!!
Don't say stuff like that!

It's fine now, Ara-ragi.
I don't mind.
W-
Well, I do!
How could I not? What are you saying?!
And... what about Senjogahara? What're you going to do about her?!

I'm done with her, too.
With Senjo-gahara.
I'm done.
It's fine. I'll *give* up.
The Rainy Devil is...
...a devil of falling rain.


And a weepy devil at that.
But... I love her...
I should go home... and apologize...
Who cares about mother—I hate her.

As to *what* exactly attacked the child... Well, there are various theories.
The standard theory says it was a pack of wild monkeys, but there aren't any monkeys in Europe.
So an ape-like human, which is to say...
A thrill killer.
A beast in human skin who must have been described as a monkey.


Only the neatly removed skin of the girl was found, left in a church.
Yes, like a raincoat left hanging on the eaves of a house.
That is the origin of the Rainy Devil.
DRIP
DRIP
So then why does this devil try to grant wishes?
It couldn't re-turn home... so it does this out of spite?
Who knows.

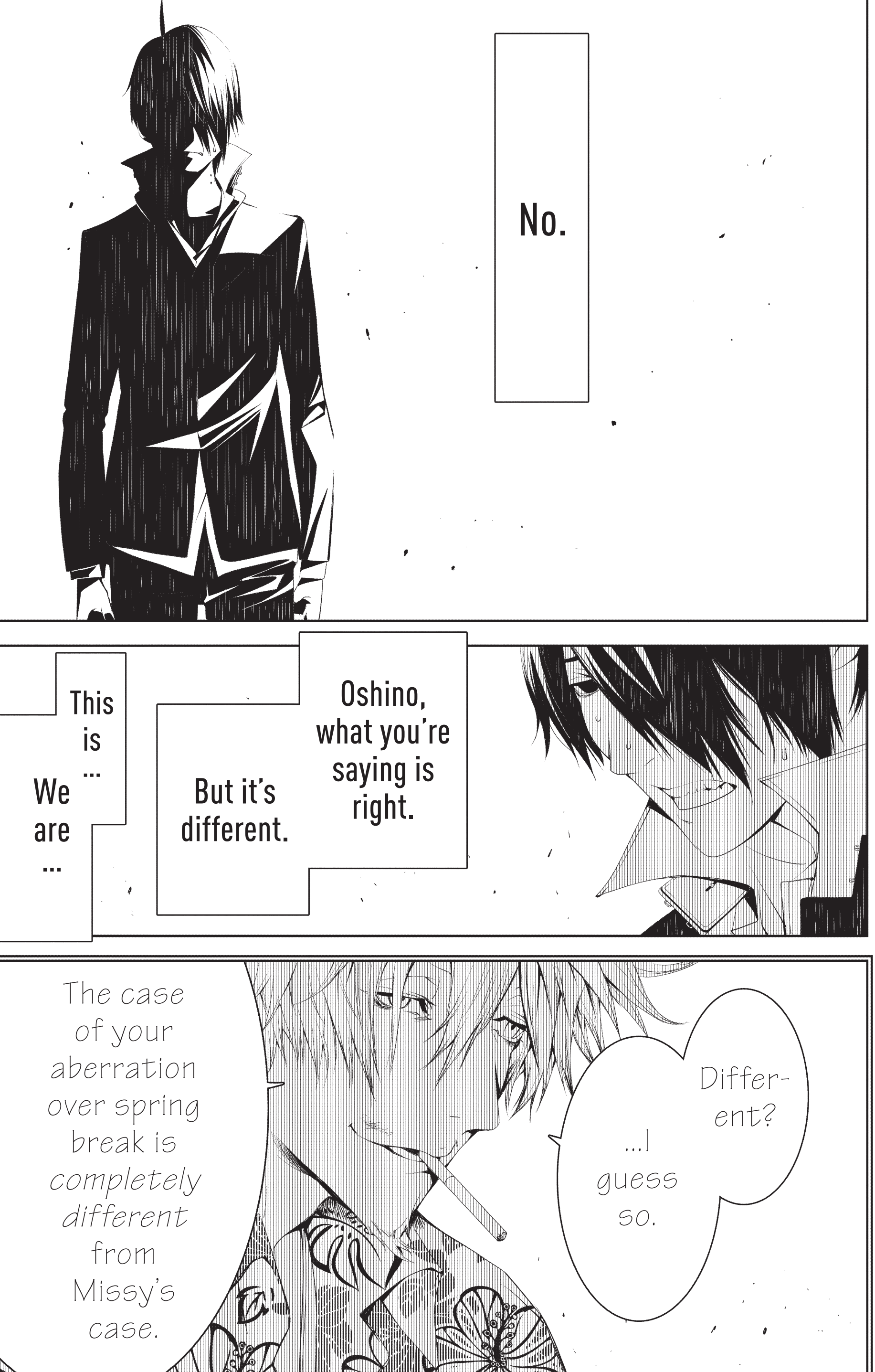
PLAY WITH A DEVIL, BECOME A DEVIL.
Maybe it's lonely?
...
Lonely ...

Maybe it's presumptuous of me to say this, but... I understand.
I understand it so well that it pains me, Kanbaru.
We bear the same kind of pain.
We throw everything away and give up on it all.
The only thing we share is that pain.
Kanbaru, there's a gaping void in you.
And you've stuffed your tiny body with all kinds of things to fill it, haven't you?

If she wants to cut it off, there is a good way.
Why don't you tell her?
TWITCH

A heart under her blade —
just borrow Shinobu's prized sword.
Use the aberration-slaying enchanted sword Kokoro-watari.
Use that and there won't even be time for Missy to feel any pain.
You can cut her ties to that devil as easy as you'd slice tofu.

In the original "The Monkey's Paw," the first person who used it...
The Monkey's Paw
...wished for death with their third wish.
I don't think...
...I need to explain the full significance of that, do I?

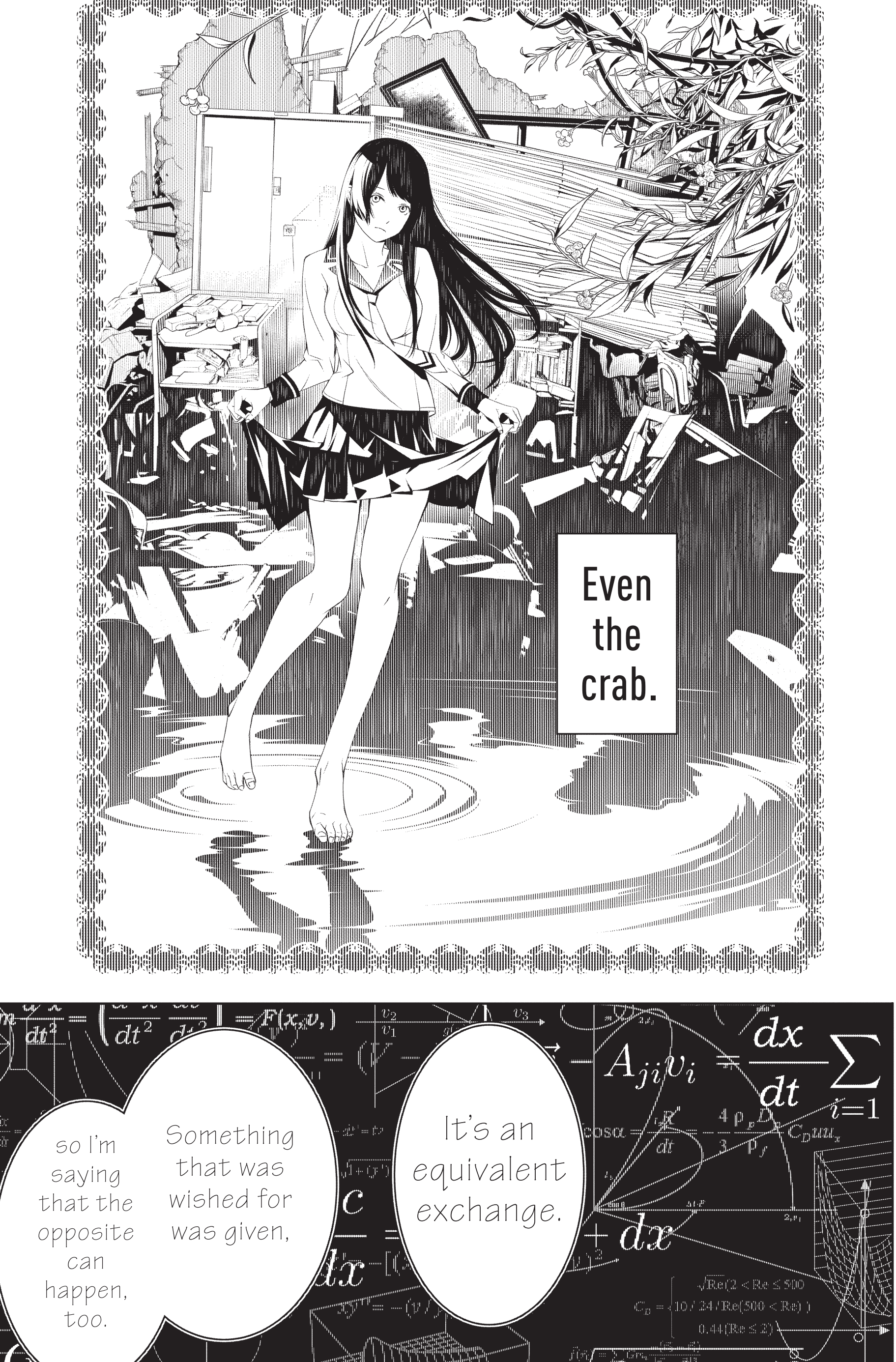

No.
Oshino, what you're saying is right.
But it's different.
This is ...
We are ...
Different?
...I guess so.
The case of your aberration over spring break is *completely different* from Missy's case.

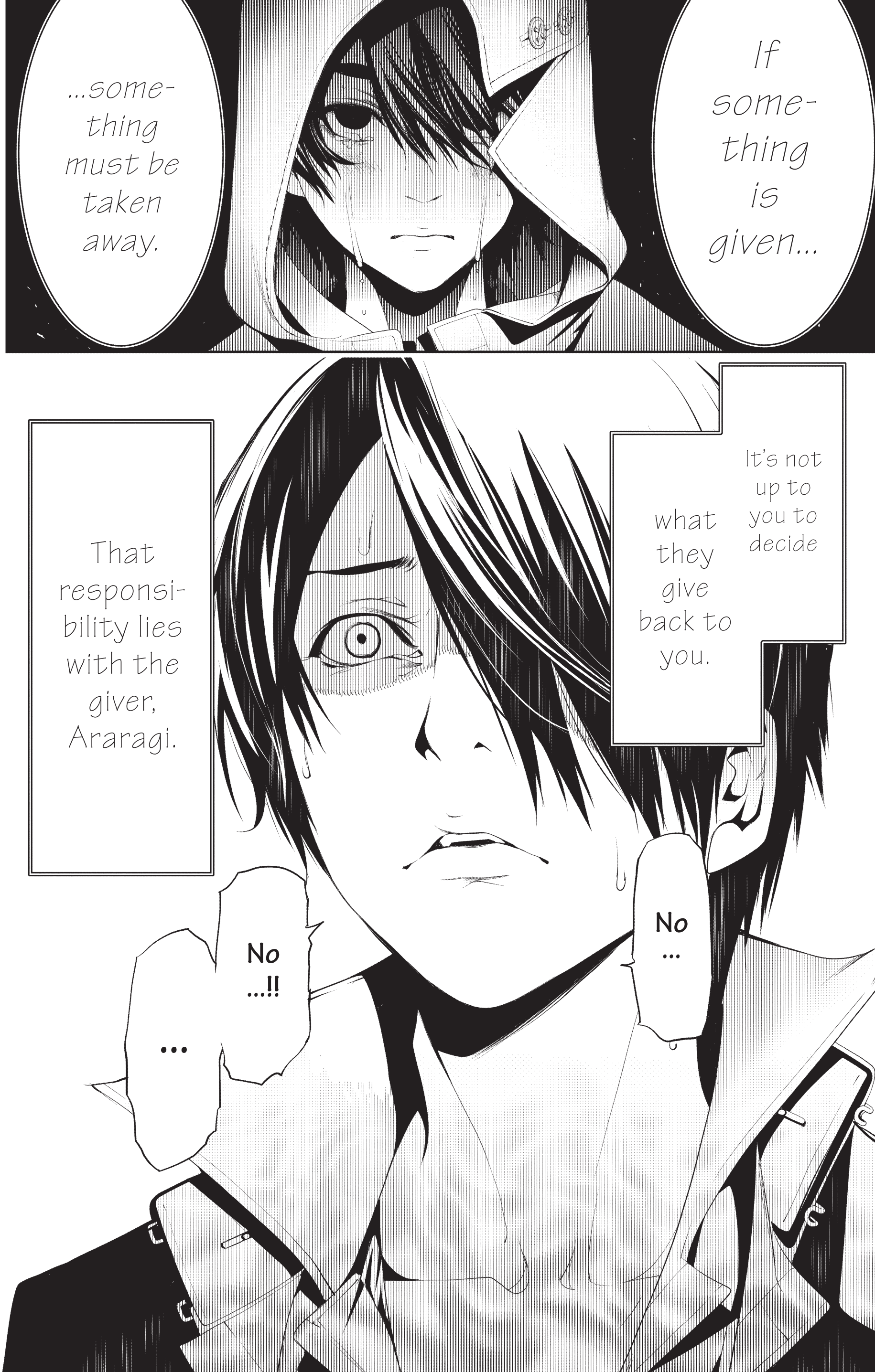
You didn't wish upon an aberration.

Save me!
Save me!
I'm sorry
I'm sorry
Save me
Save me
The one answering the call... was you.
You and Missy are different, Araragi.

So, you don't under-stand how she feels.
Not her remorse or her regret.

Not in the slight-est.
And maybe
that goes for more than just Kanbaru.
Or at least that's what Oshino seemed to imply.
The snail, too.
And the cat.
Ha haa.


Even the crab.
It's an equivalent exchange.
Something that was wished for was given,
so I'm saying that the opposite can happen, too.


If something is given...
...something must be taken away.
It's not up to you to decide what they give back to you.
That responsibility lies with the giver, Araragi.
No...
No...!!
...

Continued in Volume 6

Next Volume Preview

COMING FALL 2020!
GWOOSH
GWOOSH
GWOOSH
BOOM
All while Suruga's true feelings drill into Koyomi's heart.
Suruga Monkey reaches its conclusion.

BAKEMONOGATARI
volume 5

A Vertical Comics Edition

Editing: Kristi Fernandez
Ajani Oloye
Translation: Ko Ransom
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